

Turkey to ensure Iraqi 'integrity'

ANKARA (R) — In its latest nod to Baghdad, Turkey said on Wednesday that the stricter control it has clamped on its southern border would help to ensure Iraq's territorial integrity. Measures took effect on Sept. 8 to restrict passage between Turkey and northern Iraq, which is controlled by Western-backed anti-Baghdad Kurds and is used as a staging area for cross-border attacks by Turkey's own Kurdish separatist guerrillas. The Foreign Ministry, explaining the changes, said on Wednesday that U.N. aid agencies and Operation Provide Comfort, in which Western air forces protect the Iraqi Kurds from attack by Baghdad, would have free access. Turkey's Kurds and accredited foreign correspondents are exempt from the new restrictions but all others must seek permission to cross from Turkish authorities on a case-by-case basis, the ministry said. "In assessing requests for passage, we are naturally reviewing our own security considerations as well as the need for the preservation of Iraq's territorial integrity," Foreign Ministry spokesman Ferhat Ataman told a press briefing. "This move has to be seen in relation to attempts to cozy up to Baghdad," commented a Western diplomat.

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Hlas honoured

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Wednesday conferring the Jordanian Al Kawkab Medal on Ms. Laurice Hlas for her distinguished services over the past 30 years at the ministries of tourism and foreign affairs. Ms. Hlas, who retired this year, had for some time served as advisor to the Prime Ministry.

Dev-Sol demands leader's release

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Turkey's armed extremist group Dev-Sol on Wednesday demanded the immediate liberation of its leader from French custody, threatening French targets if their request was denied. "If the French government intends to collaborate with the Turkish torturers and executioners in attempting to sabotage our struggle, our fight will perhaps be transformed into a national and international class war" one of the organisation's representatives said in Brussels. Dev-Sol leader, 41-year-old Dursun Karatas, was indicted Monday by France's top anti-terrorism magistrate Jean-Louis Brugiere. He was arrested early Friday trying to cross the Italian-French border using a false Dutch passport. The leftist group said the French government had taken a "political stance" in arresting its leader.

Yemeni security forces foil hijack

SANAA (AFP) — Yemeni security forces foiled a mid-air hijack attempt Wednesday, overpowering a man armed with a grenade on board an airliner of the national carrier Alyemda on a flight from Aden to Sanaa, witnesses said. Salah Ahmad Hassan, a 30-year-old Yemeni man, tried to enter the flight deck of the Boeing 737 with a grenade in his hand, but security forces grabbed him, seized the device and tied him up, passengers said after arriving in Sanaa. The plane, carrying 80 passengers and crew, landed without problems and the hijacker was arrested. A security official at Sanaa airport said Mr. Ahmad Hassan was being questioned about his motives.

'Guatemalan threatened'

TEL AVIV (AP) — A Guatemalan diplomat has been threatened after the Latin American country's decision to move its embassy to occupied Jerusalem, reports said Wednesday. The Maariv daily said the diplomat in charge of the embassy was harassed by anonymous callers warning, "We will blow up your house." The paper said police suspected extremists were behind the threats and were investigating. No comment was available from the Guatemalan embassy in Tel Aviv. The ambassador, Stella de Garcia-Granados, was out of the country.

Kabul fighting leaves 33 dead

KABUL (AFP) — At least 33 people have died after three days of heavy fighting in southern and eastern suburbs of Kabul and clashes between two Shiite factions, witnesses and hospital sources said Wednesday. Rockets rained down on the city and hospitals reported at least 11 civilians dead and more than 50 wounded early Wednesday as clashes continued between two opposing Shiite factions in south Kabul around the ruins of Darulaman Palace. "I am sure that by the end of the day the casualty toll will be higher than 100," said a staff member of Kabul's Karte Se hospital. The factions identified in the fighting are the Harakat-e-Islami, which is allied with President Burhanuddin Rabbani, and the Hezb-e-Wahdat faction in alliance with ex-premier and Hezb-e-Islami faction leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Israel and PLO put peace back on track

OSLO (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat left Norway on Wednesday after putting aside their differences to speed up much-needed aid for Palestinian self-rule areas.

The two men signed a declaration on Tuesday night aimed at unblocking \$2.5 billion of aid for Palestinian self-rule territories.

"I think both parties are really trying to be reasonable and go ahead with our negotiations. We made a historic decision," a smiling Peres said early on Wednesday.

Norway's Foreign Minister Bjørn Tore Godal, who helped broker the deal, said of the document: "I think it performs a very solid basis for the work in the next weeks which will have to be done to secure the interests of the 'Palestinian people'."

Israel, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and donor countries — which include the United States, Japan and European member states — plan to reconvene in Paris for a new conference on international aid in about two weeks time.

The so-called "Oslo declaration" was signed during an intermission of a concert marking the first anniversary of the declaration of principles, the historic Israeli-PLO accord.

The Oslo declaration is aimed at defusing a dispute over Jerusalem that broke up a meeting in Paris last Friday, of states pledged to aid Palestinian self-rule.

The three-page document said both sides accepted a

request by Norway, as chair of the ad hoc liaison committee, "that they shall not bring before the donor community... those political issues that are of disagreement between them."

"They will deal with such issues between themselves, based on the declaration of principles and subsequent agreements," the document said.

The text avoided the thorny issue of Jerusalem in what was widely seen as yet another victory for Norwegian diplomacy.

Norway helped broker last year's peace accord and has pledged to continue hosting talks between Israel and the PLO on implementing self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

"If we have some problems, we know a place which is called Oslo," Peres said. "I think the (PLO) chairman as well as we have become extremely sentimental about Oslo," he added, standing next to Mr. Arafat who seemed to fully agree.

Mr. Peres, Mr. Arafat and Mr. Godal confirmed they had reached an agreement in front of a 6,000-strong crowd at the peace concert in central Oslo.

On stage, both Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres paid tribute to Norway's late Foreign Minister Johan Joerges Holst, who helped broker the original peace accord.

"I can say to his spirit that be sure. We will continue walking in this line of peace," Mr. Arafat said, holding Mr. Peres' hand firmly as they talked about the necessity of achieving lasting peace in the Middle East.

Later on Wednesday, Mr.

Arafat urged Russian leader Boris Yeltsin and U.S. President Bill Clinton to focus their attention on the Middle East at their forthcoming summit.

Mr. Arafat, on a stopover in Moscow, discussed Russia's role in Middle East peace moves during talks with Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, ITAR-TASS news agency said.

It quoted him as saying he hoped the planned Sept. 26-29 summit in Washington would serve to reinforce the role of both powers as co-sponsors of the Middle East peace effort.

Mr. Arafat, speaking after talks with Mr. Ivanov, welcomed the efforts which Russia as co-sponsor of the Arab-Israeli peace process had made, TASS said.

The PLO leader afterwards was to leave Moscow for Tashkent, the capital of the Central Asian state of Uzbekistan, for a one-day private visit, officials said.

Mr. Arafat was scheduled to meet Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov during his stay there, they added.

The 15-point Oslo declaration announced overnight wiped the slate clean a year after the declaration of principles launched autonomy for Gaza and Jericho.

"We have the feeling that everything is starting off again in a very positive way," said a senior aide to Mr. Peres.

"Yasser Arafat appeared very moved, he spoke a few words in Hebrew, repeating Shalom over and over," the aide added.



EGYPTIAN AIR CHIEF: His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court on Wednesday Lieutenant General Ahmad Nasser, commander of the Egyptian air force. The King and Gen. Nasser exchanged views on Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation in airforce affairs in the presence of Major General Mohammad Qudahi, commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force (Armed Forces photo)

Arab League hails Washington Declaration

CAIRO (Agencies) — Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Meguid praised the Israel-Jordan accord of July 25 on Wednesday and urged the Jewish state to recognise Palestinian rights in Jerusalem if it wants true peace.

Dr. Abdul Meguid made the statements to the opening of the 102nd meeting of foreign ministers from the Arab League's member states.

The session began with the 21 members adopting a series of resolutions supporting the Palestinian struggle and recognising Jerusalem as capital of a would-be Palestinian state. They also urged Israel to stop building settlements around the city.

Dr. Abdul Meguid called the Washington Declaration ending the state of belligerency between Israel and Jordan

"an important development" in resolving the Jewish state's conflict with the Arabs.

But Abdul Meguid added that the Arab-Israeli conflict would not end until Israel withdraws from all Arab land.

"Israel must realise that peace cannot be complete unless...the Palestinian people regain their lawful rights of establishing a state with Holy Jerusalem as its capital," he said.

On Tuesday, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres signed an agreement separating the divisive issue of Jerusalem from the question of aid to autonomous Gaza Strip and Jericho.

During its two-day meeting, the Arab League is also to discuss Kuwaiti prisoners

in Iraq, Iran's occupation of two islands claimed by the United Arab Emirates and Libya's battle with the West over the Lockerbie bombing.

Dr. Abdul Meguid also appealed for reconciliation between Arab states, saying it was time to put behind them the "bitterness and painful memories" of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 that sharply divided loyalties.

An initiative he launched in March 1993 to promote Arab reconciliation should "form the basis" of this process, the secretary general said, although the issue itself was not on the agenda.

The initiative called on all Arab countries not to interfere in the internal affairs of other states and to respect their sovereignty. But so far there have been few concrete

results. Yemeni Foreign Minister Mohammad Salem Bassandawa also backed reconciliation. "Holding ministerial sessions has become pure tradition. We meet, we go back to our capitals, as if we had not met at all," he protested.

"The time has come to adopt a (more efficient) mechanism to overcome inter-Arab differences." But an Arab diplomat said it was unlikely the question would be raised since it needed a decision from the heads of state.

Fifteen ministers from the 22-member Arab League turned up for the meeting, while the other seven countries were represented by their permanent envoys to the Cairo-based organisation.

Saguy: Israel and Syria closer to deal

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel and Syria are moving closer to a first agreement in their peace negotiations, Israel's chief of military intelligence said in an interview published Wednesday.

"I think that the near future may afford us the ability to bridge the gaps (in positions)," Major General Uri Saguy, reportedly involved in secret talks with Syria, told the Yedioth Ahronoth daily.

Gen. Saguy refused to give details or say through which channel the two sides were negotiating. Formal talks in Washington were suspended earlier this year, but Israel and Syria reportedly have established a back channel involving the two countries' ambassadors to Washington.

An Israeli official Wednesday confirmed reports that Syria had not rejected outright a proposal involving an Israeli troop withdrawal on the Golan Heights in two stages, but that President Hafez Al Assad attached several conditions Israel found unacceptable.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has offered to withdraw immediately from a slice of the Golan, to be followed by a three-year testing of normalisation, including the exchange of ambassadors and free trade and travel. Only then would the final line of withdrawal be negotiated, Mr. Rabin has said.

Uri Dromi, head of the government press office, said Wednesday that Israel's offer included pulling troops back one or two kilometres from their present front position, without uprooting any Jewish settlements.

The Syrians, however, insist that at least one Jewish

settlement be dismantled in the first stage, according to the government official who confirmed a report by Israel Radio.

The Syrians also want withdrawal to be completed within two years, before the next Israeli elections scheduled for mid-1996, the report said. Mr. Assad apparently is worried that Israel's hawkish opposition could regain power before the withdrawal is completed, the radio said.

The Syrians also said that only towards the end of the withdrawal process would they exchange of ambassadors, but not allow free trade and travel, the report said.

Gen. Saguy said there was not the slightest sign that Mr. Assad would settle for less than all the Golan, in part because Israel set a precedent when it returned the entire Sinai Peninsula under its 1979 treaty with Egypt.

Gen. Saguy said Mr. Assad still had not given the green light for an Israeli-Syrian summit.

Asked why Israeli-Syrian negotiations were moving forward after months of deadlock, Gen. Saguy said Israel's looming 1996 elections and the progress in Israel's negotiations with the Palestinians and Jordan apparently convinced Mr. Assad it was time to forge ahead.

Egypt pulls off success with population forum

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Egyptian government basked Wednesday in the success of the U.N. population conference which had come under fire from its own clergy as well as Muslim fundamentalists.

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) ended on Tuesday with Islamic states like Iraq, Indonesia and Pakistan joining a 182-nation consensus on a 20-year plan to cut the world's booming birthrates.

These states won changes in the plan's wording they charged condoned abortion and undermined traditional family values, helping to mute the fierce domestic criticism which hit the conference when it opened on September 5.

Egypt supported the document without reservation but took the same line as other Muslim countries during the conference on abortion and the definition of family.

The changes in the action plan "are not everything we wanted, but they are of importance and value," said Maamun Al Hodaiby of the illegal but government-tolerated Muslim Brotherhood.

"The document is no longer dangerous because of the efforts made, whether on the part of the Vatican, the Muslim countries, the media campaigns or (Pakistani Prime Minister) Benazir Bhutto's remarks," Mr. Hodaiby told AFP.

The Brotherhood had issued a statement blasting the conference, saying it violated Muslim ethics.

And Muslim militants who have been waging a two-year war to overthrow President Hosni Mubarak's secular government had also warned

delegates to stay away or risk their lives.

But 14,000 police deployed for the event prevented any attack.

Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Musa and Population Minister Maher Mahran were both at smiles at the close when delegation after delegation thanked the host country.

On Wednesday, the Islamic opposition paper Al-Ahram, previously one of the highest critics, said the conference action plan now included some Islamic views.

"The conference adopted the action plan after... Islamic countries entered what is compatible with religions of the book, and their principles and ethics," wrote Al-Ahram.

There was no immediate post-conference comment from the government-appointed Al-Ahram, the world's foremost Sunni Muslim authority, which had initially opposed parts of the action plan.

The consensus achieved at the nine-day Cairo conference was, however, accompanied by reservations on certain points which Islamic states said could still undermine their views.

But only the Vatican withheld full support for the final plan, and even it said parts of it were good.

Prior to the conference, Iran urged Islamic countries to attend to bolster the Muslim stand.

Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Turkey, Syria and many other Muslim countries attended but Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Iraq and Lebanon boycotted the conference.

Muslim countries were particularly successful in deleting the phrase "sexual rights" from the action plan.

Gazans disappointed on peace anniversary

SHATI CAMP (R) — Palestinians in Gaza self-rule enclave passed the first anniversary of the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal on Tuesday without celebrating, disappointed that a hoped-for economic revival remains elusive.

And many youths who during the Palestinian uprising fought in guerrilla groups against Israel still live in fear. Abdul Nasser Al Khalidi, a 25-year-old former member of the Red Eagles, an armed group of Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), is trying to lead a normal life at home under Palestinian rule — but with difficulty.

"I still do not feel safe. I cannot go back to work and I do not feel free to move around," Mr. Khalidi said. As one of the most sought people on Israel's list of wanted people, Mr. Khalidi said he did not dare approach any area where Israeli soldiers operate checkpoints around Jewish settlements.

Under the Israeli-PLO peace agreement, Israeli soldiers stayed behind to protect 19 Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip.

And Mr. Khalidi says he suspects relatives of collaborators killed during the seven-year Palestinian uprising were out to take revenge on former activists who returned home since the Israeli withdrawal.

"I am always cautious. I won't trust anybody," he said.

In Shati refugee camp, young men milled around aimlessly as older people chatted outside nearby deserted shops.

Pessimism has replaced the euphoria that swamped Gaza a year ago when PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat appeared on world television screens beside U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime

Minister Yitzhak Rabin for the historic signing ceremony.

"We were hoping that our conditions would become better, that the garbage would be removed from the streets and that our children would find jobs," said Abdulah Al Khalidi, 64, sitting in the shade in front of an empty store.

"The Israelis have destroyed everything and handed Abu Ammar (Arafat) a wrecked economy, and donor countries are not giving him anything to work with," he said.

States around the world have promised some \$700 million in aid to help rebuild the infrastructure of the West Bank and Gaza — but only a trickle of those funds has been transferred to the Palestinian authority.

The return home of thousands of Palestinians, most members and families of Palestinian security forces, and freedom from daily confrontation with Israeli soldiers have been overshadowed by lack of jobs and rising prices.

Many Palestinians are still unable to obtain permits to go to work in Israel and the few jobs opportunities opened to people in the enclave has not deterred high unemployment in Gaza.

Some people have lost jobs since the peace agreement. Imad Rayyan, 24, who ran a sub-contracting shop in Gaza, had to close down some six months ago over growing difficulties in collecting payments.

He said he had no such problems before the peace agreement.

Now he drives a taxi to make a living. "From a psychological point of view, we are better off. But we need also to be assured of our economic future," he said.

Israelis sweltering on Yom Kippur fast day

TEL AVIV (AP) — Atone-ment seems harder than usual for Israelis this Yom Kippur, with the country gripped by a stifling heat wave and focused on likely painful trades of land for peace.

Temperatures soared to the mid-90s (30s), making the prospect of abstaining from all food and liquids through sunset Thursday especially daunting.

Shimon Baron, the secretary of the Elron collective farm on the Golan Heights, said the 350-strong membership usually gathers on Yom Kippur for a mutual "accounting of souls," where members ask forgiveness from one another.

But this year, the settlement took the extraordinary step of organising a political meeting, after hearing reports Wednesday that they would be the first evacuated under a treaty with Syria.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin spoke last week of a "slight withdrawal" from the heights.

We asked the prime minister's office for a denial. "Mr. Baron said, 'They wouldn't give one.' He said the settlers could be demonstrating by Thursday night, right after the holiday.

The Golan is closely identified with Yom Kippur because of the 1973 Mideast war, which began on the fast day. Syria attempted to regain the heights in that war, considered one of the region's bloodiest.

last minute purchases with his three children, said he was ready to repent.

"I bonked really loudly at another driver the other day," said Mr. Noah, 42. "He told me I shouldn't wear a skullcap if I was going to be so aggressive. I paused and thought he's right — being religious means respecting my neighbour."

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An Israeli soldier prevents Palestinians to cross into Jerusalem as Israel closed the West Bank and Gaza Strip for two days on the Jewish holiday of "Yom Kippur" the most holy day for the Jews (AFP photo)

Two days on the Jewish holiday of "Yom Kippur" the most holy day for the Jews (AFP photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fires ravage Lebanon's forests

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese firefighters helped by troops and police battled on Wednesday to douse forest fires that have ravaged hundreds of hectares of woods and forests, the Civil Defence Authority said. It said all available firemen were mobilised to fight a rash of blazes caused by days of unseasonably high temperatures and dry wind with the mercury soaring to 33 centigrade (91 Fahrenheit). A civil defence official said 75 blazes were doused on Tuesday but firefighters were battling another eight fires on Wednesday in mountains east and south-east of Beirut. Several apartments were also set ablaze in towns in other areas of the country on Tuesday night by youths throwing firecrackers in traditional celebrations of the Catholic Feast of the Cross, authorities added. Newspapers said Lebanon's firemen were poorly equipped to fight the blazes but the civil defence official said the situation was under control. "So far we can handle the situation with the help of the army and police and we don't need outside help," she said. Last summer Britain sent three helicopters to help fight scores of fires in the hills and mountains across Lebanon.

Sudan court upholds death sentence

KHARTOUM (R) — The Sudan high court has upheld the death sentence passed on a Libyan for a machinegun attack on a mosque in Omdurman in February. Sixteen worshippers were killed and 20 others wounded in the attack, the first of its kind in Sudan. Abdul Rahman Mohammad Kholifi, a Libyan, and Mohammad Al Mahi Mohammad Ahmad, a Sudanese, were sentenced to death by hanging last month for their role in the massacre. Two other Sudanese were killed a day after the attack in a clash with security forces. Kholifi was wounded and captured. State television on Tuesday quoted Chief Justice Obeid Haj Ali as saying the death sentence on Al Kholifi had been confirmed by the high court. Prison authorities will carry out the verdict. The chief justice said the court had doubts about Ahmad's participation in the attack as he had left Khartoum. Omdurman's twin city, the day before the assault. It therefore decided to spare his life and instead he is to go to jail for 10 years. Kholifi and Ahmad belong to an extremist group called People of Islam which believes that most Muslims are infidels and must be eliminated.

Qatar Airways to get five new planes

DOHA (AFP) — Qatar Airways, a fledgling carrier in the Gulf, is negotiating with European and U.S. companies for five new aircraft to boost its fleet to eight planes, its chairman said Wednesday. Sheikh Hamad Bin Jaber Al Thani said some of the planes would be bought and the others leased. "We are studying bids from U.S. and European companies for the lease and purchase of five aircraft. This will boost our fleet to eight planes at the end of next year," he told the Qatari newspaper Al Sharq. Qatar Airways started flights in January with two Airbus 310s and a Boeing 737. Its operations already cover 11 destinations, including Bombay, Beijing, Colombo and London, and there are plans to also fly to Beirut and Athens.

Juppe to meet Aziz in New York

BEIRUT (AFP) — French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe has said he would meet Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz in New York on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly later this month. The meeting would take place at the request of Mr. Aziz. Mr. Juppe told the London-based Arabic newspaper Al Hayat in an interview published on Wednesday. "He expressed the wish to see me, so

I will listen to what he has to say and tell him that Iraq must do more to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions, particularly those concerning recognition of Kuwait," he said. Mr. Juppe did not specify when the meeting would take place, but the General Assembly opens on Sept. 20. Mr. Aziz, in New York for three weeks, has launched a fresh initiative at the United Nations to lift or ease the U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq four years ago, after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The U.N. Security Council was to review the sanctions later Wednesday, as it does every two months, with France among the countries pushing for recognition of Iraq's progress in meeting the conditions for lifting the embargo.

Beware of Somali beauties, Zimbabweans told

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe's Defence Minister Mwenemahachi says Somali women are so beautiful he has had to warn Zimbabwean soldiers serving as peacekeepers in the Horn of Africa country to behave. Mr. Mahachi, speaking in parliament on Tuesday night, agreed with a member of parliament who said all steps, including providing condoms, had to be taken to protect Zimbabwean troops because they could hardly resist the Somali beauties. "Yes, I agree the Somali women are nice-looking. Zimbabwean soldiers stationed there have been warned against interfering with them," Mr. Mahachi said. "I am sorry to report that so far our army has been highly disciplined."

Officers deny wrongdoing in shooting

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Four air force officers signalled Tuesday that they will fight charges of dereliction of duty aboard the radar plane that failed to prevent the "friendly fire" downing of two U.S. helicopters over Iraq. "I am deeply disappointed and outraged that I have been accused of criminal offenses," Major Lawrence M. Tracey, a 14-year air force veteran and mission crew commander on the flight, said in a written statement to the daily Oklahomaian. "I feel great sadness for the families of the persons killed in this tragic accident. However, I did nothing wrong." The four were crew members on an airborne warning and control system aircraft monitoring a restricted flight zone over Iraq. Two F-15 fighters mistakenly shot down two Black Hawk helicopters ferrying an international group working with Iraqi Kurds. The newspaper also quoted from brief statement by Capt. Jim Wang, senior director of the mission crew; Joseph Halici, an en route controller and air controller; Rickey Wilson. They denied any criminal conduct and said their actions were based on their training.

Kuwait to build new tankers

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait plans to have three new supertankers built to help carry its crude oil exports, an industry official said on Tuesday. The Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) had won approval from owner Kuwait Petroleum Corp (KPC) for plans to build three new large crude carriers (VLCC) in the coming years, he said in brief remarks by telephone. The company was expected to begin preparation of specification documents for foreign shipyards seeking to complete for the supply of the vessels, each of around 280,000 deadweight tonnage. Delivery could be as early as two years' time. Industry analysts say such vessels would cost in the region of \$60 million each. KOTC, a subsidiary of state hydrocarbon conglomerate KPC, is one of the world's largest oil tanker companies, operating a fleet that transports crude oil, refined products and liquefied petroleum gas around the world. KOTC has seven crude carriers, 20 product carriers and six liquefied petroleum gas carriers. In addition KOTC is converting another two VLCCs for use as mixed and product carriers.

Biological experts end Iraq survey

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — U.N. experts have surveyed 70 sites across Iraq that will undergo long-term monitoring to ensure that Iraq does not try to rebuild prohibited biological weapons programmes, the team leader said Tuesday.

But while the Iraqis were cooperative with the team in its survey, Baghdad's continuing lack of candor over certain aspects of the biological weapons programme and its removal in 1991 of buildings related to the weapons programme leave lingering suspicions, said David Kelly.

Mr. Kelly, a Briton, who led the 13-member U.N. team on its two-month survey, said the Iraqis "have been less than candid in discussing" aspects of the biological weapons programme since he led the first inspection in the country in August 1991.

Baghdad then claimed it had been involved only in research. But when inspectors visited the main research facility at the Salman Pak industrial complex about 30 kilometres south of Baghdad, they found side buildings and equipment had been removed, Mr. Kelly said.

The U.S.-led coalition that evicted Iraq from Kuwait in the Gulf war destroyed the complex itself, but outbuildings had remained.

"We've been to places where buildings, equipment have been removed... we're deeply suspicious," he said.

Furthermore, the inspectors have found no traces of other components of the weapons system they expected to uncover such as that used to fill warheads and bombs with toxins. Neither was there the ammonia used to carry the deadly germs.

But there were unusual weapons, bombs or which

there was no rational explanation," and which could have been intended for the purpose, he said. Mr. Kelly said the bombs were manufactured in Europe, but would not say where.

Mr. Kelly spoke to journalists at the inspectors' regional base in Bahrain where he completed his report for the U.N. Special Commission overseeing the destruction and monitoring of Baghdad's nuclear, biological and chemical weapons programme.

Under terms of the Gulf war ceasefire, Iraq is prohibited from having or producing such weapons or storing long-range missiles with a range more than 150 kilometres.

He said that although one or two more facilities may need to be visited later for inclusion in the monitoring plans, the survey is essentially complete.

"We've established the baseline for the long-term monitoring to start... if no report is acceptable," said Mr. Kelly.

The sites his team went through covered government and academic departments and commercial companies, including the country's breweries which could be employed for research on prohibited weapons or to produce needed bacteria.

Iraq was suspected of developing anthrax and botulinum toxin, vaccines that poison the blood or the brain and nervous system, within hours or a few days.

The U.N. Security Council will consider lifting an embargo slapped on Iraq with its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait only when the special commission is satisfied programmes of mass destruction have been dismantled and long-term monitoring systems have been established.

Religious leader escapes shooting in N. Lebanon

TRIPOLI (AP) — The top Sunni Muslim religious leader in north Lebanon escaped an apparent assassination attempt when gunmen burst into his bedroom early Wednesday and opened fire. Neither Mufti Sheikh Taha Sabonji nor any member of his family was injured when unidentified gunmen sneaked into his residence in the summer resort town of Bekaa-sar north of Tripoli at 3 a.m. (0000 GMT Wednesday), police said.

Sheikh Sabonji said several gunmen descended on ropes from the roof of his second-floor apartment, and at least one man armed with a submachine-gun fired 10 bullets in the room.

Police had earlier said a man fired his 9-mm pistol into the room. There was no explanation for the discrepancy.

Most of the bullets came to rest in the wooden edge of the bed, missing Sheikh Sabonji and his wife and who were sleeping, said the cleric. Police, who arrived at the scene shortly afterward, said the attackers fled 15 seconds later through the door.

There was no indication burglary was behind the break-in.

Sheikh Sabonji said he did not recognise the gunmen, according to the initial police investigation.

"We were surprised by this unjustifiable evil deed," Sheikh Sabonji told a news

conference at his Tripoli office Wednesday afternoon.

As mufti of north Lebanon, Sheikh Sabonji runs the day-to-day religious affairs of the province, including marriage, divorce and inheritance matters.

Sheikh Sabonji is a moderate in a region where Muslim fundamentalist forces are gaining ground.

Political assassination was rampant during the 1975-90 civil war, but there has been no successful attempts on politicians and religious leaders for the past two years.

A bomb designed to blow up a group of Christian clerics exploded while it was being planted on a road leading to a Greek Orthodox monastery in north Lebanon last year, killing one cleric. Three others suspects are on trial.

Grand mufti Sheikh Hassan Khaled, spiritual head of Lebanon's one-million-strong Sunni community, along with 21 other people were killed in a 1989 car bomb on a Beirut street. No arrests were made in that bombing, which also injured 75 people.

Sheikh Subhi Saleh, an outspoken prominent Sunni cleric, was shot dead on a Beirut street in 1992 by an assassin on a motorcycle. No arrests were made.

The Sunnis' Islam's main branch had little military strength on the street during Lebanon's civil war.

JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Un Siècle De Chanson
18:00 Hong-Kong
18:30 News in French
18:45 Quatre D'Heures De Mathématique
19:00 News in Hebrew
19:15 Battleground Galatia
20:00 News in Arabic
21:10 Murder She Wrote
22:00 News in English
22:30 Movie of the Week: "Shadow of Doubt"

PRAYER TIMES

04:56 Fajr
16:14 (Sunrise) Duha
22:31 Dhulh
16:03 'Asr
18:49 Maghreb
20:07 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 623266
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 625526

The Lutheran Church Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Hot weather conditions will prevail with winds southwesterly moderate.

In Aqaba, winds will be southerly moderate and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp.

Amman 23 / 36

Aqaba 25 / 40

Dead Sea 19 / 38

Jordan Valley 25 / 41

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 35, Aqaba 38 Humidity

readings: Amman 28 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mukhlis Mazharah 620425

Dr. Khalil Jbali 740740

Dr. Khalil Tawil 757253

Dr. Mohammad Shugair 652693

Fire pharmacy 661912

Al Asma pharmacy 723536

Ferdous pharmacy 623672

Al Salim pharmacy 636730

Yasoub pharmacy 644045

Shimran pharmacy 637660

Al Nab pharmacy 847632

Complaints 879467

Amman Municipality 787111

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Abdulk Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 636381

Company 08-53200

PJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 821111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 895390

Public Security Organisation 63021

Hotel Complaints 603800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 661176

Complaints 879467

Amman Municipality 787111

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Abdulk Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 636381

Company 08-53200

PJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 815813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6

AKILAH MATERNITY, J. Amn. 642541/2

Jahat Amman Maternity 642542

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Mushar Hospital 667277/9

Al-Hab, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Mahajir 771101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 771112/6

Arms, Marks 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602403/0

Amal Hospital 674155

Zarga Govt. Hospital 09/983323

Zarga National Hospital 09/983323

Al-Hab, Abdali 664164/6

Queen stresses central role of tourism in promoting world understanding

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor, Honorary Chairperson of the International Institute for Peace Through Tourism's Second Global Conference: Building a Sustainable World Through Tourism, Tuesday spoke at the conference's opening ceremony in Montreal, stressing the importance of developing travel and tourism to enhance international peace and understanding, promote tourism that is sensitive to the environment and utilise its economic benefits for sustainable human development, according to a Royal Court statement Wednesday.

The Sept. 12-16 conference focuses on concrete examples from throughout the world demonstrating the success of travel and tourism in contributing to a peaceful and sustainable world, and seeks to disseminate the experiences as model programmes to the participants, the statement said.

Building on the first Global Conference: Tourism — A Vital Force for Peace, which was held in Vancouver in 1988, the conference aims to develop solid proposals to launch travel and tourism as a "global peace industry" through broad international participation and exchange, said the statement.

Tourism, the world's largest service industry currently, is expected to become the world's largest industry by the year 2000, 600 million people travelled in 1993 throughout the world, representing one-tenth of the world population and generating \$340 billion in tourism income.

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan attended the conference, in which over

1,500 participants from 60 countries were present, representing all sectors of the travel and tourism industry and related sectors including parks, culture, heritage education and the environment.

Many distinguished writers, educators, politicians and activists were also present, among whom Noel Brown, the director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), delivered the keynote address.

According to the statement, Jordan is participating in all the activities throughout the conference, which include an exhibit and various workshops covering tourism development, culture and heritage, ecotourism, communication and education among other topics.

Queen Noor said the statement, emphasised the central role of tourism in promoting peace and international understanding saying, "there is a growing demand among tourists for authentic interaction and cultural exchange. Tour packages that allow visitors to experience the creativity and vitality of their host country and its citizens will have a far more sustainable and lasting impact on our goals of peace and progress than itineraries limited only to superficial contact with a country and its people."

"In the Middle East," the Queen said, "in the long struggle towards Arab-Israeli peace, we have seen clear evidence of the critical relationships between peace, tourism and development. It is clear that regional peace and stability are requisites for successful tourism, which in turn promotes stability through development progress."

The queen added that



"for tourism to play its full role as an agent of sustained development for the well-being of present and future generations, we must ensure that the economic gains of tourism are shared fairly by all concerned — in particular by the local communities who are the custodians of the environment, the guardians of precious historic sites which are mankind's common cultural heritage, and the hosts to foreign visitors."

Queen Noor stressed the necessity for environmentally responsible tourism and for collaboration to protect and preserve sites of antiquity and natural beauty.

She added, "in Jordan, we are implementing a series of protective measures to ensure that our

world renowned ancient Nabataean site of Petra, in particular, is not irreparably damaged by increasing damage from tourist flows, and that the local community is involved in preservation and development planning that will also guarantee an improved quality of life. We recognise that of equal importance is our responsibility to ensure a more equitable distribution of employment and tourism income and other benefits among all Jordanians."

Queen Noor later visited Montreal City Hall where she discussed with Mayor Jean Dore areas of cooperation between Montreal and Jordanian cities, and the exchange of expertise in various fields, including the environment, tourism, archaeology and urban development.

Crime rate drops, says Udwan

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Crime is on the decrease and citizens should have trust and confidence in their national security system, Chief of Police Lieutenant General Abdul Rahman Udwan said Wednesday during a lecture held by Rotary Club in Amman.

"There are few crimes you hear about, but crime will never stop in any society, and our country has the least number of crimes compared to other societies in the world," Lt. Gen. Udwan said addressing club members at the Intercontinental Hotel.

He said that the security apparatus was able to minimise the number of crimes committed this year and "we have statistics to prove it."

The chief of police denied that most crimes in Jordan were committed because of unemployment, or by foreign workers and returnees from the Gulf states.

"Not every poor person is a criminal and not every rich person is without fault. I assure you that only 10 per cent of the crimes are committed because of unemployment," Lt. Gen. Udwan, who has been chief of police since April 1993, said.

Jordan is still far off from

dangers of organised crime that Western societies suffer, and "we are living in a safe community and most military and security foreign observers who visit the country support my claims."

"I challenge anyone to live in as safe and stabilised a community as ours, and the proof is that now we see women driving late at night safely, which means that they feel secure," he said.

He said that responsibilities fall first on the families because they have a duty in raising their children to be law abiding.

"We need to concentrate on teaching our youngsters on ways to stay away from evils such as drugs and drinking, thus we can have more control over our community," said the Lt. Gen., a 26-year veteran of the police force.

He explained that another issue which concerns security in the Kingdom is the problem of some students returning from abroad who have picked up deviant habits which add to the problems of our society, "especially drug abuse."

"Drugs are a serious problem, and we have to join hands and teach our children to stay away from any person with suspicious behaviour be-

cause drug abuse and trafficking affect our country's security," the chief said.

He said what adds to the drug problem in this country is that Jordan is situated in the centre of the drug routes.

"Drug smugglers use Jordan as a passage to smuggle the contrabands from countries in the north to countries in the south, and sometimes part of these smuggled drugs find their way into the Kingdom," he explained.

But, the police chief said that the Public Security Department (PSD) in cooperation with the Ministry of Health have taken steps to eliminate this problem by establishing a drug rehabilitation centre which has helped many individuals conquer their drug problems.

Asked why the police do not report some crimes, Lt. Gen. Udwan said the PSD takes such measures to protect people's honour and reputations.

"People are our family after all, and it is our job to keep people's secrets and protect their honour," he added.

The responsibility of the security of the country also falls on the media, he said, adding that it is the duty of the media to show the abilities of the police apparatus.

Lt. Gen. Udwan said the latest killing of five people during a tribal feud, including an innocent woman, was regrettable. "People should eliminate hatred and revenge from their hearts," he said.

The incident involved an exchange of gunfire between two families during a wedding procession.

"This incident and festive firing of live ammunition during weddings should be a sign of alarm to our society, and we need to become more sensitive about this issue, take responsibility by encouraging those who practice festive firing against this dangerous act."

According to a report released recently by the PSD, last year there were 446 festive firing incidents that claimed 23 lives and injured 280 people.

"We have experienced tragic incidents where the groom or the bride is killed because of such irresponsible practices," he said.

Lt. Udwan admitted that there are negative aspects in the police department.

"Like every police apparatus in the world, we have negative aspects, but it represents less than one per cent, which is nothing," he said, adding "I hope you believe in this system."

BACK TO WORK: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Wednesday attends a meeting at the Ministry of Interior where Minister Salameh Hammad had just returned from a 15-day absence because of injuries he sustained in a road accident in the Mafraq region. Mr. Hammad, who was treated at Al Hussein Medical Centre, and Dr. Majali reviewed procedures for the decentralisation of administration in various regions of the country (Petra photo)



UNRWA announces senior post changes

AMMAN (J.T.) — Senior staff changes at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) slated to take effect today include the return of Ele Saaf, a former agency director for Jordan and Lebanon, as UNRWA Director for Jordan, and the transfer of incumbent director Dennis Brown to the post of coordinator of UNRWA Headquarters in Amman.

Mr. Saaf (54), a Dutch national, has been with

UNRWA since 1978 and has served as personnel director in Vienna and coordinator of the agency's headquarters in Amman, in addition to the above mentioned posts in Lebanon and Syria. Mr. Saaf holds a masters in social sciences. He is married and has two children.

Mr. Saaf was welcomed Wednesday by Minister of State Mohammad Thweib who expressed hope for further close cooperation

between Jordan and UNRWA in providing educational, health and social services to the Palestinian refugees in the Kingdom.

Meanwhile, Palestinian Affairs Department Director Assem Ghosheh has flown to Vienna for a meeting Thursday of the agency's advisory council.

The meeting, which is to be chaired by Jordan, is expected to discuss UNRWA's projects in the occupied territories and the self-rule areas in the com-

ing era of peace among other topics concerning the agency's services in its fields of operations in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the West Bank and Gaza.

According to a department source, the advisory council will review a draft report by the agency's Commissioner General Ilter Turkmen, which if endorsed, would be submitted by Mr. Turkmen to the U.N. General Assembly in New York by the end of September.

Australia promises cooperation in establishing peace — visiting envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Australian Senator and Minister of Immigration and Education Nicholas Bolkus met in Amman Wednesday with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and said later that his country supports the Washington Declaration as an important step on the way towards comprehensive peace in the region.

Mr. Bolkus said Australia was concerned over the peace process and would do all it can to help in establishing peace in the region.

Referring to Australian-Jordanian relations, Mr. Bolkus said that there is a large Jordanian community living in Australia and contributing towards enhancing bilateral ties adding that trade rela-

tions between both countries were excellent, and the volume of exchange trade was on the increase.

He said that Australia was continuing to extend financial aid to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in a bid to lay the infrastructure for projects in the self-rule areas of Pales-

tine, adding that his country will continue to provide help to solve the refugee problem. Dr. Majali and Mr. Bolkus reviewed bilateral relations and developments in the peace process.

Mr. Bolkus, who is currently on a tour of the Middle East to visit Egypt, Israel and the Gaza Strip.

Environmental workshop participants call for increased government, NGO involvement

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Participants at the "Family and Environment" workshop, held this week by the Centennial Committee of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) in cooperation with the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), called on both the gov-

ernmental and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to get more involved and to increase their efforts in providing a safe and clean environment.

The participants also stressed what Her Royal Highness Princess Basma had called for at the opening ceremony, which includes forming a mechanism of continuous cooperation between the

public and government sectors to form a future plan of action.

Moreover, the document called for NGO environmental experts to study the draft environmental law suggested by the government and prepare notes and recommendations to be presented to the Parliament.

They also called for studying possibilities of conducting

environmental projects similar to the successful projects in rural areas, and called for the GUVS to provide the necessary funds.

Furthermore, the paper also called for increasing women's participation in the environmental and development projects and for women to "make their own decisions since they are in direct contact with family members."

Oman grants Jordan most-favoured-nation status

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) Wednesday announced Oman is granting Jordan most-favoured-nation status in trade and is facilitating the import of unlimited amounts of Jordanian fruits and vegetables.

According to AMO Director General Lawzi Salem, Jordanian vegetables and fruits will be allowed direct entry into the Omani markets

and will be given priority over other similar imports, in accordance with provisions of a memorandum of understanding signed by the two governments and formally endorsed Wednesday.

Dr. Lawzi said Omani markets annually absorb agricultural products worth \$115 million and therefore the door is wide open for Jordanian exporters to conduct business in the Omani market according to the required

specifications. Under the terms of the memorandum, he said, the Omani government has pledged to ensure visas for Jordanian merchants and facilities for Jordanian refrigerated trucks.

Dr. Lawzi said that the AMO has distributed copies of the memorandum to the farmers federation and the exporters of fruits and vegetables as well as the Amman chambers of trade and indus-

try urging them to make contacts with the Omani authorities in order to facilitate their exports.

He said he would soon go to Oman to finalise arrangements for the implementation of the agreement and ensure the flow of produce to the sultanate.

According to Dr. Lawzi, the AMO and the Omani Marketing Corporation have been discussing the establishment of a joint company,

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

- Chinese film entitled "Love By Chance" (with subtitles in English) at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
- Film entitled "The Spirit of St. Louis" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.
- Spanish film entitled "El Balcon Abierto" at the Spanish Cultural Centre on Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

PLAY

- Children's play in Arabic entitled "The Festival" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 10:00 a.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- "The Golden Crown Exhibition" of Jordanian national products at the Amman Auto Exhibition, Airport Road.
- Exhibition of handicrafts at Haya Cultural Centre (Tel. 604600).
- Exhibition of oil paintings by Rashad Salim at Ab'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.) (Tel. 819661).
- Exhibition of paintings by Syrian artist Walid Karidi at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 687598).
- Exhibition of paintings by Youssef Al Baddawi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of Chinese paintings and handicrafts at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of oil paintings by Iraqi artists Sa'd Al Ta'i, Taha Issa and Mahdi Al Asadi at Al 'Ain Art Gallery (Tel. 644451).
- Exhibition entitled "Time 2 Space 1" by Samia Zaron at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

New clerical training venture aims to meet 'urgent' need

By Jennifer Hamarnah
Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A "state of the art" clerical training venture gets off the ground Saturday and judging from the all-out effort of its founders, it looks like they have left no stone unturned, including environmental adjustments for wheelchair-bound students.

The Amman Business Institute (ABI) is the brainchild of Sheril Sukhtian and Arwa Dajani who commissioned a private market research firm in Amman to study the feasibility of their proposed venture.

The response, say the founders, was an overwhelming cry from the business community as well as office workers for a sophisticated, thorough training programme that would turn out professional bilingual receptionists, secretaries and administrative assistants.

"Clerical staff make up a huge percentage of Jordan's workforce in all sectors and we suspected, and the study proved, that there is an urgent need for skilled office workers," Mrs. Sukhtian told the Jordan Times.

The lack of qualified administrative and clerical staff prevents these sectors from being as productive as they have the potential to be, she added.

According to Mrs. Sukhtian the training ingredients required here include computer skills (or information technology), English language, and office skills.

"Although such training courses are available, they are not integrated into a comprehensive package that would produce a well-rounded professional," Mrs. Sukhtian said.

According to Mrs. Dajani, the ABI will operate its three levels of secretarial training (junior, private and executive/office manager) based on British as well as the institute's own qualifications. Each level requires a nine-month basic training period which, when successfully completed, leads to an international recognised British certificate, she said.

Mrs. Dajani pointed out that providing such certification here in Jordan saves potential students from having to go abroad for the same qualifications. Highlighting what the institute sees as its "different

approach" to teaching, Mrs. Sukhtian said the ABI classrooms were designed and equipped so that each student would have access to individual, and not shared, office equipment for a complete "hands-on" learning experience in what she termed "an automated office of the 21st century."

In addition, ABI plans to offer a course which is novel to the country designed to teach managers how to dictate using a recording device. The secretarial courses, in turn, will include learning to transcribe dictated material from tape.

The first floor of the ABI's three-storey, building is designed to accommodate the wheelchair-bound. Mrs. Sukhtian, who said it was the ABI's intent to address the training needs of the handicapped as well, admitted that at first they presumed that the cost to tailor their facility for use by physically handicapped students would have been prohibitive.

But, she said, when they contacted Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped, they discovered that



Amman Business Institute trainers Wednesday work together to prepare for class openings (photo by Rana Hussein)

redesigning their quarters was not only as inexpensive undertaking but also quite simple.

Combined into the programme of developing various office skills are lessons and workshops on interpersonal skills. These include training in recognising and developing a professional business attitude

when dealing with clients, co-workers, managers and subordinates; problem-solving; telephone techniques; and hygiene and grooming.

The training staff are all college graduates who have undergone weeks of preparation involving an integrated teaching method

whereby these trainers will work in groups.

And in capping the ABI founders' recipe for a pleasant, energetic and professional learning environment, the institute has been declared a non-smoking centre.

Classes begin Saturday, and the staff of ABI say they are ready to go.

هنا نحن الان

Cuba boat people exodus ends; beaches near Havana empty

HAVANA (R)—A month-long exodus from Cuba where some 30,000 people left the Communist-ruled island in flimsy rafts appeared to be over as beaches near Havana emptied of boat people and their home-made vessels.

Cuba, fulfilling its side of a deal struck last week with the United States, said force would be used if necessary from mid-day (1600 GMT) Tuesday to stop rafter departures.

Well before then, a string of beaches east of the capital such as Cojimar, Guanabo and Las Brisas that have been focal points for departures were clear of rafts and rafters.

Around dawn, interior

removed raft material from a stretch of beach at Guanabo.

One group of rafters paddled slowly back to the shore after encountering a U.S. Coast Guard vessel at sea and deciding it was not worth making the trip to the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, where Cuban boat people picked up at sea by the U.S. Coast Guard are being taken.

Only 33 people were picked up by the Coast Guard Tuesday, compared to 283 intercepted Monday.

Along the coast at Las Brisas, two young Coast Guard officers stood watch during the morning among the rock pools as a solitary couple sunbathed on the sand behind.

The officers said the last of

the rafters had left late Monday.

At Cojimar, a rocky stretch of beach that turned into virtually an unofficial port after President Fidel Castro relaxed the rules on rafter departures on Aug. 12, there was nobody on the beach at all.

A police car slowly patrolled the road behind a shoreline that just days ago was populated by wiry young men and their inner-tube, oil drum and wood vessels.

Police also guarded some roads into Cojimar, 10 miles (15-km) east of Havana to ensure compliance with an order issued at the weekend banning transport of rafts or raft material down to the coast ahead of Tuesday's

clamp-down.

Cuba called a halt to the exodus after reaching an immigration accord last Friday with the United States under which Washington has agreed to increase to a minimum of 20,000 the number of visas it grants each year to Cubans.

There may still be some Cubans who take to the sea in rafts as they did previously, in clandestine fashion, although last week's deal confirms that if they are picked by the U.S. Coast Guard, they will not be admitted to the United States.

The end to mass departures — the exodus was the biggest from Cuba since the 1980 Mariel boatlift — closed a chapter on a tense period in Cuba that began two months ago with the sinking of a stolen tugboat used by would-be emigrants to the United States.

Thirty-two people drowned. Cuba insisted that the sinking of the tugboat by pursuing vessels was an accident, but President Bill Clinton called the July 13 incident an example of Cuban "brutality."

A spate of further hijackings of state-owned vessels toward Florida in late July and early August triggered unprecedented street clashes in Havana on Aug. 5.

Mr. Castro, blaming the clashes on the United States and saying he was fed up with trying to "guard" the U.S. coastline for it, ordered more flexibility shown towards rafters on Aug. 12.



Police in riot gear discuss next to an armoured vehicle at the scene of riots at the scene of a Protestant extremist, police said erupted between rival Catholic and Protestant gangs at the courthouse where a Catholic suspect was standing trial for the attempted murder of a Protestant extremist, police said (AFP photo)

Belfast Protestants take to streets

BELFAST (R)—Protestant gangs angered by Dublin's acceptance of an IRA ceasefire and upset by alleged police harassment took to the streets of Belfast overnight, hurling cars and throwing petrol bombs.

A police spokesman said Wednesday the disturbances, widespread across Protestant areas, were contained within a few hours.

"There were a number of incidents — vehicles were set on fire, a number of petrol bombs thrown," he said.

Another spokesman said a shot was fired at police, hitting a house, and a loaded handgun was later found abandoned. He said no injuries were reported but three people were arrested.

Northern Ireland's Protestant majority has become increasingly uneasy about its future since an IRA ceasefire two weeks ago.

Local Ulster Unionist Party councillor Chris McGimpsey said tensions between some residents and police were to blame.

"I think there is a fear that, with the ceasefire, police will be pulled more and more from (Republican) areas and the fear is... they will be deployed to loyalist areas," he told British Broadcasting Corporation Radio.

Protestant activists, called loyalists for their desire to remain part of Britain, are

starkly opposed to a unified Ireland, the goal of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) which says it has ended its 25-year guerrilla war against Britain.

The Protestants are also angry about the warm reception Ireland has given to the IRA's political wing Sinn Féin since the ceasefire announcement. The once-shunned Sinn Féin head Gerry Adams went to Dublin within days and met Mr. Reynolds — and on Tuesday Irish officials met Sinn Féin delegates again.

In Dublin, Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds denied that his government had disregarded the feelings of disaffected unionists by meeting with the IRA's political wing Sinn Féin. "The doors are open to everybody," he told reporters. "There is no special treatment for Sinn Féin, or anybody else."

Mr. Reynolds has written to Protestant Unionist parties to invite them to join his forum for peace and reconciliation, which Sinn Féin and Irish parties will attend. The unionists rejected earlier invitations.

Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring Wednesday expressed concern about the Protestant violence and appealed to Protestant extremists to join the IRA ceasefire.

But he also defended the talks with Sinn Féin. "What

you saw yesterday was part of the necessary consultations to establish the forum as soon as possible," he said.

British ex-Chancellor (Finance Minister) Norman Lamont accused Prime Minister John Major of badly handling Protestant unhappiness, worsening instead of calming their fears.

"The problem has been compounded by the British government's portrayal of itself as a disinterested, honest broker in the peace process. This, of course, is impossible," he wrote in the U.S. Wall Street Journal.

"No government can be indifferent as to whether a part of its country switches allegiance," added Mr. Lamont, whom Mr. Major sacked last year after bitter debate within the ruling Conservative Party.

Mr. Lamont also bluntly warned the U.S. administration not to interfere unnecessarily in Northern Ireland affairs. The United States has seen itself as a broker, irritating the British government by giving Mr. Adams one visa and bunting he could easily get another.

Earlier Tuesday about 80 Protestant men and women confronted police outside a Belfast courthouse where a Catholic man was standing trial for the attempted murder of an alleged Protestant extremist leader.

Judge supports move to keep sculpture

LONDON (R)—A judge

threw out an attempt to overturn a British government decision to stop the export of The Three Graces sculpture to California's Getty Museum. The judge refused to allow a judicial review of the government decision which allowed museums a final chance to match a bid from the Los Angeles-based museum. He said the government had not acted unfairly.

The California-based J. Paul Getty, which agreed to buy the Three Graces for its 1988 museum in Los Angeles, wanted the court in Leeds, northern England, to overrule the government decision. Counsel for the Getty Trust said later it planned to appeal against the decision within the next week.

Art lovers fought for five years to keep the 19th century marble sculpture by Italian Antonio Canova in British hands. The Getty Trust agreed to buy the sculpture for £7.6 million (\$11.8 million) in 1989, but government ministers repeatedly delayed the final go-ahead for its export to allow British museums time to raise the money. London's Victoria and Albert Museum and the National Galleries for Scotland raised £5.8 million (\$9.04 million) in an appeal. In August the government allowed a further three months for British interests to match the Getty Trust's bid.

Multi-millionaire John Paul Getty II offered to donate £1 million (\$1.55 million) but he almost withdrew the offer when Timothy Clifford, director of the National Galleries of Scotland, accused him of being motivated by ill-will towards his father, J. Paul Getty, whose fortune supports the Getty Museum.

Finally, Dutch-born art collector Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza stepped in with the final £800,000 (\$1.25 million) needed to keep it in Britain.

Sexually explicit exhibit opens at gallery

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—

Sculptures of genitalia. A painting of an angel having sexual intercourse on an altar. Pop star Madonna's latest book? Try the latest exhibit at an art gallery run by Roman Catholic nuns. The nuns and the Archdiocese of San Antonio have been besieged by calls from irate Texans. The archbishop has declared himself "highly offended, insulted and hurt at this 'art'." And on Tuesday, one day after the exhibit opened, it was shut down until further notice for review by the religious order that operates the gallery.

"We apologize for any confusion or hurt that the community has felt," said Edna Perez-Vega, spokeswoman for the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, an order of about 500 nuns throughout the United States, Mexico and Peru. The exhibit of works of Houston artist Donnell Hill, titled "spiritual, sensual, sexual," opened Monday at a renovated century-old barn called Robb — a centre for spirituality and art. Sister Alice Holten, the gallery's director, said she prayed before the exhibit went up and decided the work should be shown because "sexuality is a tremendous gift from God."

"I am very much opposed to pornography," she said. "Yet, I do not believe (this exhibit) is pornography. It is a sacred rendition of the beauty of sexuality." John Gallagher, a 65-year-old Catholic who saw a photo of the work in the newspaper, had a different take on it. "I've never seen such a sacrilegious pornographic display in a Catholic institution in my life," he said. Mr. Gallagher showed up at the gallery Tuesday to see the work for himself but found the gallery closed.

Mr. Symington's Democratic opponent would be Terry

Goddard, a former Phoenix mayor, who led with 38 per cent against grocery store chain owner Eddie Basba who had 33 per cent with about half the vote counted.

In Wisconsin, first term Senator Herb Kohl handily won re-election in his bid for the Republican nomination after building up a commanding lead over his challenger, Phoenix lawyer Barbara Barrett.

Mr. Symington's Democratic opponent would be Terry Goddard, a former Phoenix mayor, who led with 38 per cent against grocery store chain owner Eddie Basba who had 33 per cent with about half the vote counted.

In Connecticut, former Republican congressman John Rowland easily won his primary battle for governor.

Political neophyte William Curry posted a come-from-behind Democratic victory, each earning a spot in the November contest to replace Lowell Weicker, who decided not to run after a single term.

In Vermont, Jan Backus won the Democratic Party nomination for U.S. Senate over Douglas Costle, local television reported. Mr. Backus will oppose one-term incumbent Republican James Jeffords in November.

Republican John Carroll won the primary race for the state's only congressional seat. Mr. Carroll will run against independent incumbent Bernie Sanders.

Japanese divided on U.N. seat bid

TOKYO (AFP)—Japanese public and political opinion was divided Wednesday by the government's decision to seek a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.

Already three government ministers have expressed reservations over the decision announced by Foreign Minister Yohei Kono Tuesday to present Japan's candidacy at a U.N. General Assembly meeting on Sept. 27.

"There are still many scars of the war in Asia. We should be prudent," said Home Minister Nomaka quoted in Wednesday's Tokyo Daily.

But Japan's candidacy has already won backing from U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, who left Tokyo Wednesday for China after a four-day visit to Japan.

The controversy over the candidacy immediately resurfaced in a country still traumatised by its military aggression of World War II and earlier. Public opinion here is largely in favour of maintaining the pacifist constitution adopted by Tokyo after the war.

Health Minister Shoichi Ide and Director General of the Management and Coordination Agency Tsuruo Yamaguchi have openly opposed Japan's candidacy, citing it as risky and premature as there has been little public debate on the subject.

For years Japan has been regarded as a strong contender for permanent membership of the Security Council alongside Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

Mr. Kono Tuesday set down conditions for Japan's inclusion in the group, centring on assurances that the country would not be expected to take aggressive part in U.N. action.

A recent decision to send 470 Japanese soldiers to help to help Rwandan refugees, seen as a sweetener to the international community, was also the subject of widespread criticism Wednesday.

The main newspapers here were concerned that on an issue of humanitarian aid, the parties in the ruling coalition appeared more concerned about the number of machineguns to be supplied to the Japanese peacekeeping force.

Lesotho king restores democratic government

MASERU (AFP)—Lesotho's King Letsie III Wednesday reinstated the elected government he ousted last month, bowing to pressure from the tiny southern African kingdom's powerful neighbours.

An agreement returning power to Prime Minister Ntsu Mokhehle was signed at the royal palace here in the presence of officials from South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana, who had helped broker an end to the constitutional crisis.

Final details of the accord were not released but a draft copy indicated it included agreement on the return of King Letsie's father, King Moshoeshoe, to the throne and pledged no action would be taken against those who supported the king's actions.

King Letsie is believed to have ousted Mr. Mokhehle's government because it was refusing the return of King Moshoeshoe, who was de-

throned in 1990 after being accused by Lesotho's then military rulers of interfering in politics.

Lesotho, which is landlocked by South Africa, was plunged into turmoil on Aug. 17 when King Letsie deposed Mr. Mokhehle's government, disbanding parliament and suspended parts of the constitution.

The king's actions sparked international condemnation and demands for the restoration of Mr. Mokhehle, whose Basotho Congress Party (BCP) won every seat in parliament in March 1993 elections, the first polls in Lesotho since 1970.

South African President Nelson Mandela, backed by Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and Ketumile Masire of Botswana, summoned King Letsie to Pretoria on Aug. 25 and demanded that the 34-year-old monarch restore democracy.

If comet hits, good-bye human race — physicist

KUALA LUMPUR (R)—A newly-discovered comet is heading Earth's way and will probably miss, but a collision could wipe out the human race, renowned British physicist Stephen Hawking said Wednesday.

News reports last weekend quoted astronomers as saying fragments of a new comet, Machholz-2, discovered by an American last month, are believed to be on a collision course with Earth.

"I think it's almost certain the comet will miss Earth," said Mr. Hawking, answering questions from reporters through his computerised voice synthesiser.

"If it did hit, it would probably mean the end of the human race," he added.

Mr. Hawking suffers from a motor disease called amyotrophic lateral sclerosis that has left him almost totally paralysed and confined to a wheelchair.

He arrived in Malaysia Tuesday for a five-day visit during which he will give lectures relating to cosmology.

At the weekend, astronomers observed five fragments hurtling into the solar system on a path that would take them within Earth's orbit.

Duncan Steele, of the Anglo-Australian Observatory, told the Daily Telegraph the fragments would probably not hit Earth for another 100 years, if at all. "We might be wrong. It could happen in the next few decades," he added.

Hawking said scientists believed comets hit the Earth about every 10 million years or so. "The last time Earth was hit by a comet, it created the Gulf of Mexico and wiped

out the dinosaurs," he said. Mr. Hawking said his greatest fear was that the human race would be eliminated by nuclear war, a genetic accident "or some other means."

"If we can get through the next 100 years, we can probably spread into space. So, if a disaster did hit Earth, it wouldn't mean the end of the human race."

Previewing a theme he will pursue in his lectures, Mr. Hawking said humans were on the brink of a revolution in which it would be possible to "design our evolution."

"It's now possible, or soon will be, to alter the genetic code to select for characteristics of intelligence, or longer life. I'm not saying that's desirable, but it is likely to happen. We will be designing our own evolution."

Mr. Hawking, author of the best-selling Brief History of Time, has also written a book on his favourite subject entitled, Black Holes and Baby Universes.

"I'm currently working on what happens to black holes when they give out radiation, causing them to evaporate and eventually disappear completely," he said.

"I want to know how the universe works," he said when asked what motivates him as he sits immobile in his wheelchair.

He was able only to move two fingers to manipulate a hand-held device that those words on a computer screen propped up in front of his face.

"I want to know why it works, indeed, why it operates at all. One can define God as the answer to the question, why does the universe bother to exist?"

Clinton signs crime bill

WASHINGTON (R)—President Bill Clinton signed a \$30 billion crime bill aimed at making America's streets safer and giving Democrats in Congress some credit for their fall re-election campaigns.

"Let us roll up our sleeves to roll back this awful tide of violence and reduce crime in this country," Mr. Clinton said at a White House ceremony with all the colourful trappings of a traditional campaign rally. "We have the tools now. Let us get about the business of using them."

He signed the bill on the White House South Lawn in a grandiose ceremony with patriotic music, fluttering flags and bunting of red, white and blue. The lawn was crowded with members of the House of Representatives and Senate, the Clinton cabinet, city mayors, and many others.

Skidmarks from a small plane that crashed on the lawn and skidded against the White House.

WASHINGTON (R)—Former Washington Mayor Marion Barry, convicted of possession of crack cocaine four years ago, rose from the political ashes by winning the Democratic primary to reclaim his old job.

With all the votes counted, Barry defeated District of Columbia council member John Ray by 48 per cent to 37 per cent. All the candidates were black in this majority African-American city.

The primary normally decides the election in this heavily Democratic city, although Mr. Barry may face a challenge from an independent. Election day is Nov. 8.

Middle class and white voters rallied behind Mr. Ray in a bid to stop Mr. Barry, who served six months in jail for his drug conviction, while poorer blacks backed Mr. Barry.

Primaries were being held in nine states as well as in the District of Columbia ahead of November mid-term elections.

Democrats and Republicans were selecting candidates to Congress or a host of other offices in party primaries in Arizona, Connecticut, Maryland, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and Wisconsin.

In Minnesota, Republican Governor Arne Carlson defeated ultra-conservative fellow Republican rival Allan Quist, a Christian hardliner who won his party's nomination on a strong anti-abortion, anti-homosexual platform.

With 34 per cent of the vote counted, the first-term moderate governor had 67 per cent compared to 33 per cent for Mr. Quist, a former

Balladur, Delors lead presidency race

PARIS (R)—European Commission President Jacques Delors has made up group on front-runner Prime Minister Edouard Balladur in an undeclared race for the French presidency in 1995, a poll said Wednesday.

The survey, in the daily Le Parisien, showed that 53 per cent of French voters would have confidence in conservative Balladur as president, just ahead of Socialist Delors on 52 per cent.

Support for Mr. Delors, a former French finance minister who stands down as head of the Brussels-based com-

mission in December, has leapt from 47 per cent in August while Mr. Balladur's rating has risen less dramatically, from 50 per cent.

Neither man has said he is a candidate to succeed Socialist President Francois Mitterrand after elections in May—Mr. Balladur has said he does not plan to talk about the elections until 1995.

Two former prime ministers, centrist Raymond Barre and neo-Gaullist Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, trailed the two front-runners with 38 and 37 per cent respectively. The

poll was based on interviews with 1,000 voters in early September.

Mr. Balladur, a member of the neo-Gaullist Rally For the Republic party headed by Mr. Chirac, has been helped by signs of economic revival in France, by a French military operation in Rwanda and the capture of guerrilla "Carlos the jackal."

He was further bolstered by a separate poll in the daily Le Figaro Wednesday showing the French were less pessimistic about the economy and the social outlook than six months ago.

Barry wins primary to become Washington mayor

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With 34 per cent of the vote counted, the first-term moderate governor had 67 per cent compared to 33 per cent for Mr. Quist, a former

state representative and father of 10 who ran on a platform of traditional Christian values. Broadcast reports projected Mr. Carlson as the winner.

The race was being closely watched as a measure of the power of the Christian fundamentalist right in the Republican Party.

In the Maryland Republican primary for governor, fiscal conservative Ellen Sauerbray upset representative Helen Bentley, who had resigned her congressional seat after five terms to run for the state house.

The winner will face Parris Glendening, a local county executive, who handily won the Democratic primary. His running mate for lieutenant governor is Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, a daughter of the late Robert Kennedy.

In the race for Senate nomination to face Democratic incumbent Paul Sarbanes, former Tennessee Senator William Brock, who has moved to Maryland, led local developer Ruthann Aron 35 per cent to 28.

In Rhode Island, two-term Democratic Governor Bruce Sundlun, who admitted fathering a child out of wedlock, was defeated by state Senator Myrth York.

Another member of the Kennedy clan, Patrick Kennedy, the 26-year-old son of Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy, won a Rhode Island Democratic primary for the House of Representatives.

In New York, Governor Mario Cuomo easily won the Democratic primary and will face state Senator Pataki in what is expected to be a close

race. "It's going to be difficult because there's still trouble in this state there's still trouble in the country. All incumbents are in trouble, the people are very negative," Mr. Cuomo told reporters at his New York headquarters.

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan defeated black activist Al Sharpton and 12-term Democratic congressman Charles Rangel heat Adam Clayton Powell IV, son of the man Mr. Rangel first defeated to take the seat in 1970.

Tom Duane, a homosexual who carries the virus which causes AIDS, was defeated in his bid to run for the House of Representatives.

In the capital, Mr. Barry capped an amazing political comeback four years after the FBI videotaped him taking crack cocaine with a girl friend in a hotel room.

In Arizona, three Democrats, Representative Sam Coppersmith, State Senator Cindy Resnick and Secretary of State Richard Mahoney were locked in a tight race for the nomination to succeed retiring Senator Dennis DeConcini. The Republican nominee, Representative John Kyl, was unopposed in the primary.

With close to half the votes counted, Sen. Resnick held a narrow lead with 33 per cent while Mr. Coppersmith had 32 per cent and Mr. Mahoney 30 per cent.

The seat held by Sen. DeConcini is one of a number that Republicans are hoping to wrest from Democratic control in the Nov. 8 election.

Arizona Governor Fife

Symington, seeking re-election to a second term, declared victory in his bid for the Republican nomination after building up a commanding lead over his challenger, Phoenix lawyer Barbara Barrett.

Mr. Symington's Democratic opponent would be Terry Goddard, a former Phoenix mayor, who led with 38 per cent against grocery store chain owner Eddie Basba who had 33 per cent with about half the vote counted.

In Wisconsin, first term Senator Herb Kohl handily won re-election in his bid for the Republican nomination and will face Democrat Wayne King in November.

In Connecticut, former Republican congressman John Rowland easily won his primary battle for governor.

Political neophyte William Curry posted a come-from-behind Democratic victory, each earning a spot in the November contest to replace Lowell Weicker, who decided not to run after a single term.

In Vermont, Jan Backus won the Democratic Party nomination for U.S. Senate over Douglas Costle, local television reported. Mr. Backus will oppose one-term incumbent Republican James Jeffords in November.

Republican John Carroll won the primary race for the state's only congressional seat. Mr. Carroll will run against independent incumbent Bernie Sanders.

Arizona Governor Fife

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A view of the newly opened Bailey Bridge which recently was built by British and Spanish engineers in three weeks to replace the old Tito Bridge below (AFP photo)

Advance team of observers to deploy in Serbia

GENEVA (AFP) — International observers will begin deploying this week on the Yugoslav-Bosnian border to ensure Serbia's compliance with the global blockade against renegade Serbs in Bosnia, international mediator Lord Owen announced Wednesday.

An initial team of Nordic observers tasked with monitoring sanctions will head for Serbia Thursday followed by a second contingent Friday, he said at a press conference.

Serbia agreed to the presence of unarmed monitors on its borders in hopes of gaining an end to UN-mandated sanctions which have crippled its economy for the past 28 months.

Official Serbian media reported Wednesday that an easing of the economic embargo was imminent since President Slobodan Milosevic had met international demands that he end Belgrade's support for Bosnia's separatist Serbs.

Serbia announced the blockade after the Bosnian Serbs rejected the latest plan to end the two-and-a-half year Bosnian conflict.

But there was no announcement yet from the United Nations or Western capitals about the impact of Serbian compliance.

Lord Owen said the observers "will be charged with checking that only humanitarian aid goes across the border into Bosnia-Herzegovina through the territory of Serbia and Montenegro" — the two components of rump Yugoslavia.

"The aim is to build up by the weekend a sufficient team to start to be deployed either in cases where the humanitarian aid is packed and distributed or at the border points

and to work alongside customs officers or the Yugoslav Red Cross," he said.

"We can't prejudice what will be necessary beyond that," he added.

The head of the 270-member observer group, Swedish General Bo Pellnas, was to arrive in Belgrade Wednesday to discuss the deployment, diplomats said.

The Serbian government had not confirmed his visit, however.

A total of 135 members of the group, drivers and translators, is to be supplied by Belgrade, Lord Owen said. Lord Owen said that Serbia's agreement to allow deployment of the monitors should result in clear international moves in favour of Belgrade.

"I have always believed that it was a tremendous error that we didn't follow up really effectively President Milosevic's support for the Vance-Owen peace plan," he said, referring to an earlier peace initiative by himself and U.N. envoy Cyrus Vance.

"That has been a lesson that has been learned and we were determined not to let that opportunity go for a second time," he said.

Lord Owen said he hoped Serbian isolation could end since "throughout this dispute there has been a widespread feeling, which is a sort of paranoia, a Serb-against-the-world feeling, which has been stocked up by some people who have an interest in it."

"I am very pleased that we have broken this myth that the world is always totally against the Serbs," he said. Meanwhile Bosnian Serb and government forces con-

tinued to clash near vital supply routes, a U.N. spokesman said Wednesday.

Bosnian Serb ground forces fought the mainly-Muslim Bosnian army Tuesday in the Konjic area, 45 kilometres (28 miles) southwest of Sarajevo in clashes Croat military officials here said aimed to test defensive lines.

Meanwhile, Bosnian army and Bosnian Croat troops traded artillery fire with Serb forces around Serb-held Brcko in northern Bosnia, which guards the strategic Posavina Corridor linking Serb-held areas in east and west Bosnia.

The exchanges marked the first time in two months that Bosnian Croats in the Orasje pocket north of Brcko have shelled the Serbs.

U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman Eric Chaperon reported a 90-shell exchange between the two sides, the Bosnian army targeting Brcko, the Serbs government-held Brka, eight kilometres (five miles) away on the Posavina corridor's southern flank.

Orasje Croats later fired at least seven rockets at Brcko, sparking Serb retaliation.

Maj. Chaperon reported heavy shelling for the second straight day in the Konjic area, with 50 82mm mortar rounds landing including five direct hits on the town.

The Bosnian army appeared to have gained ground following Tuesday's fierce infantry battles, sparked by Serb probing attacks along the front.

"The action is not as significant as the purpose" a Croat military official told AFP Tuesday.

Konjic is a priority Serb

target, sitting on a supply route lifeline between the Adriatic coast, Sarajevo and Tuzla in the north.

It is the only all-weather route along which food, fuel and eventually heavy weapons can move through government-held territory in central and northern Bosnia.

Strategists at UNPROFOR and in the Croat-Muslim federation agree capture of Konjic would enable the Serbs to strangle Sarajevo without breaching the heavy weapons exclusion zone around the capital and risking NATO airstrikes.

The Serb's next target would be to isolate the northern city of Tuzla, driving north from the Olovo-Brucje region and south from the Doboj finger to sever federation-controlled territory into two at its narrowest point, a Croat source told AFP.

Federation forces meanwhile could cut Serb-held territories in two by snapping shut the Posavina Corridor at Brcko.

But to hold onto the area the U.S.-backed Croat-Muslim federation would need heavy weapons which only a lifting of the arms embargo can bring.

U.S. President Bill Clinton — cornered by a massive vote in Congress — has vowed to act unilaterally after Nov. 1 if the Serbs continue to reject the peace plan on the table after a mid-October deadline.

U.S. diplomatic sources have hinted that Washington is scrambling to stitch together a compromise with its contact group allies trading a lifting of the U.N. Security Council arms embargo with an easing of sanctions against Serbia.

U.S. ships leave for Haiti waters

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

— A second U.S. aircraft carrier with an invasion force aboard was heading for Haiti Wednesday as President Bill Clinton tried to drum up support for American intervention in the case, the State Department released a new report on human rights abuses under the Haitian military regime, saying its "rule of terror" compared to the regime of ex-dictator Papa Doc Duvalier.

The United States kept its hands off Haiti while he was in power.

Using voodoo and his Tonton Macoute palace guard, Mr. Duvalier ruled Haiti with an iron hand from 1957 until he died in 1971. He was succeeded by his son, Jean Claude, known as "baby doc," who was pushed into exile by the military in 1986.

"Haiti is in the grip of repression and terror," said Assistant Secretary of State John Shattuck in releasing the report on human rights abuses committed by the military regime that ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1991.

"It is marked by a level of violence comparable to what existed during the notorious regime of Papa Doc Duvalier," he told reporters.

Mr. Clinton is following the example of ex-President George Bush, who mounted a publicity campaign about Iraq's human rights abuses before engaging U.S. troops in the 1991 Gulf War.

Democratic House speaker Thomas Foley said Tuesday the House of Representatives might vote next week on whether Mr. Clinton should order U.S. troops into Haiti.

puter network found that only about one-in-five of its subscribers, who number in the millions, would support military intervention.

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Democratic House speaker Thomas Foley said Tuesday the House of Representatives might vote next week on whether Mr. Clinton should order U.S. troops into Haiti.

Lawmakers indicated that the invasion was still not inevitable. "There's a lot going on right now," said Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

House minority leader Robert Michel, R-Ill., said Haiti's three top military leaders must go and "there's still considerable amount of pressure being brought to bear to bring that about short of having to follow through with military action."

Lawmakers from both parties Tuesday urged the president to seek congressional approval before committing any troops to Haiti.

The failure of the president to let Congress express itself, said Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., "reduces us to a state of emasculation. We are potted plants."

Adding to the near unanimous opposition of Republicans to an invasion was growing dismay among Democrats about the course the president was taking.

Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., said that among his fellow Democrats there were "very, very profound concerns about the wisdom of invading Haiti."

Rep. Pat Schroeder, D-Colo., usually a staunch ally of the president, said it was "wrong constitutionally, and wrong politically," to invade the Caribbean nation without coming first to Congress.

Both Mr. Foley and Senate majority leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, urged Mr. Clinton to come to Congress before launching military action, although Sen. Mitchell acknowledged that "no president in my lifetime

has agreed" that congressional approval is necessary for military action.

In the House of Representatives, Mississippi Democratic Rep. Gene Taylor used a parliamentary procedure to try to force a vote on Haiti before the end of the week.

House minority whip Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., predicted as many as 350 of the House's 435 members would support a nonbinding resolution against invading Haiti. Speaking in a television interview, Mr. Gingrich predicted the House would vote on the question early next week.

Presidents have consistently questioned the constitutionality of the 1973 War Powers Act, which gives Congress the authority to end an overseas military operation. President George Bush in 1991 reluctantly asked Congress to endorse the offensive against Iraq in the Gulf war, but he did not seek congressional approval before invading Panama, nor did President Ronald Reagan when he sent troops to Grenada.

White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers cited those cases in arguing that no prior approval was needed, and said a military invasion of Haiti would be "minor compared to what was needed in Desert Storm."

Congressional opponents of invasion said the administration had failed to show that Haiti poses a national security threat that must be met by military force. Senate minority leader Bob Dole scoffed at administration arguments that U.S. credibility is at stake in driving Haiti's military leaders from power.

6 killed as U.K. ferry gangway collapses

RAMSGATE, Britain (AFP) — Six people were killed and seven seriously injured when a 10-metre-high (30-foot) gangway collapsed while boarding a ferry to Belgium early Wednesday, police said.

Five people were killed immediately, while a sixth died later in hospital. The dead, five men and one woman, included two Belgians, the Belgian Foreign Ministry said in Brussels.

The injured — four Americans, one Briton, a Japanese and an Austrian — were hospitalised at nearby Canterbury.

Several of the injured were in a serious condition with multiple fractures of their spines and legs, but all were expected to survive, doctors said.

It was the second accident in three weeks involving a Channel ferry here.

On Aug. 25, a Sally Lines vessel, the Sally Star, caught fire off Ramsgate. The blaze, in the engine-room, raged for eight hours but there were no casualties.

Thirteen people, the last passengers to board the Belgian ferry Prins Filip, were crossing the gangway shortly before 1:00 a.m. when it collapsed, plunging most of them onto a floating pontoon some 10 metres below.

The ferry captain told Belgian maritime officials the gangway had become detached from the wall on the quay side. It had been earlier thought a cable linking it to the ship had snapped.

About 40 firemen rushed to the scene with heavy lifting gear to try to free injured people from the debris.

After the accident, the ship and its 400 passengers remained in port so investigators could question eyewitnesses.

The 30-metre long gangway, made by the Swedish company FEAB, was the highest being used in Britain and was recently inspected by an insurance expert from Lloyd's. It was supposed to be capable of supporting 100 people at a time.

The passenger walkway was actually put in place in March and was subject to examination by Lloyd's and received a Lloyd's certificate of safety, Port Director Reg Cooper said.

"Since then, it has been regularly inspected and maintained. It still is only six months old. We have another one here which is six years old and has never given any problems," he added.

The ferry is owned by the Belgian company Oostend, which operates crossings between Ramsgate and the Belgian port of Ostend.

Clashes resume in Burundi capital

BUJUMBURA (R) — Clashes between troops and gunmen in the Burundi capital resumed for a second straight day Wednesday and residents started leaving under military supervision.

Witnesses said sniping with automatic weapons in the northern suburb of Kamenge, which broke out Monday night and continued until midnight (2200 GMT) Tuesday, resumed at dawn Wednesday.

Troop reinforcements were seen moving towards Kamenge and armoured vehicles ringed the suburb, a hotbed of Hutu extremists opposed to the army dominated by Burundi's Tutsi minority.

The witnesses said civilian

residents were leaving Kamenge under army supervision but there were no new casualty reports available. They said a number of houses had been set ablaze.

Officials said two soldiers were killed and four wounded on Tuesday in clashes in Kamenge and the nearby suburb of Kinama.

Burundi has the same ethnic makeup as neighbouring Rwanda, where an estimated one million people, mostly minority Tutsis, died in tribal massacres since April blamed largely on Hutus.

The Rwanda bloodbath was ignited by a rocket attack which killed the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi, both Hutus, as the plane carrying

them flew into the Rwandan capital on April 6.

Ethnic tensions in Rwanda have been stoked by the arrival of 200,000 Rwandan refugees — both Hutus and Tutsis — fleeing the massacres or civil war.

Large numbers of the residents of Kinama and Kamenge were driven out after mass killings following the assassination last October of Melchior Ndayize, the Hutu president who was elected in the first free polls after decades of Tutsi army rule.

Officials said armed groups that had left the districts had been able to reform and identified the gunmen in Kamenge as members of the self-declared Popular Democratic Hutu Army.

Chechen government, rebels clash again

MOSCOW (R) — Government forces in Chechnya, a breakaway region of south Russia, have clashed with rebel gunmen for the second time this month, Chechen Interior Minister Ayub Satuyev said Wednesday.

He said by telephone from Grozny that militiamen fought off a rebel attack on the Chervlensky Bridge 40 kilometres north of the capital.

There were no casualties.

"This is a strategically important bridge and we are not going to give it up to anybody," Mr. Satuyev said.

He denied a report from the Russian Interfax News Agency that six militiamen had been captured by the rebels.

Mr. Satuyev blamed the attack on the band of Ruslan Labazanov, a former ally of al Qaeda.

Six Bulgarians, who police said were "probably amateurs" were arrested in a week-long operation.

One of the containers, bulding Casium-137, gave off radiation 1,000 times the normal level. Another, containing Plutonium-239, radiated 250 times the normal level.

Police said that the material was genuine, but that it was not yet clear whether it could be processed to make a bomb.

Officials from the service were not immediately available for comment on the reports, but Peter Todorov, a director of safety at the Bulgarian Atomic Energy Committee, said the committee had been informed of the haul.

He said the material, which included Thulium-204, probably came from within Bulgaria.

"In Bulgaria small quantities of radioactive material have been produced mainly for medical usage. Most probably the material was

stolen from Bulgarian industrial enterprises."

"We cannot say how much there is before specialised studies are performed," said Mr. Todorov.

Mr. Todorov said that last year the committee knew of 75 unregistered enterprises where radioactive sources were in use.

"We have found some of them... in many of them it appears that without our knowledge and permission the material has been handed over for disposal or transferred to another place. Sometimes we know the new places, sometimes we do not."

Mr. Todorov was surprised by the ignorance of the smugglers, who he said had probably been contaminated by the material.

Bones, teeth found in Sri Lanka mass grave

COLOMBO (R) — Workers dug up a mass gravesite in southern Sri Lanka Wednesday, finding the bones, hair and teeth of possible victims of a military crackdown on left-wing rebels five years ago, witnesses said.

Hampered by rain and mist and surrounded by heavy security, the workers dug up three pits and found human remains in two of them, they said.

The gravesite, on a mountainside at Suriyakanda 165 kilometres south of Colombo, was initially discovered in January when the body parts of 26 people were unearthed.

The remains are believed to be of people killed during a military crackdown in 1989-90, when thousands were executed by government death squads.

The site was discovered after a tip to the People's Alliance (PA), which was in opposition at the time but took power after defeating the United National Party in last month's parliamentary elections.

Some of the corpses may belong to 31 schoolboys who disappeared from nearby Embilipitiya. In January, parents identified the remains of two of the schoolchildren. The exact number of bodies hidden in the graves is unknown.

A government statement Wednesday said the excavation was conducted by order of a magistrate in Embilipitiya with the help of team of forensic, investigative and legal experts.

The statement said the government hoped excavation of the site would prevent similar crackdowns in the future and would lead to possible criminal trials.

The remains will be brought to Colombo and examined by the judicial medical officer and the government analyst's department.

The digging will resume Thursday, depending on the weather.

Pakistan dismayed by India's no to mediation

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan said Wednesday it was disappointed by India's rejection of an offer by United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to mediate in the dispute over Kashmir.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Pakistan had accepted the offer, which Dr. Ghali renewed during a visit to Islamabad last week.

"The government of Pakistan is most disappointed that India has rejected the offer," he said.

Indian officials said last week New Delhi could not accept the offer because it did not want to internationalise the issue. The two nations have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since they gained independence from Britain in 1947.

Dr. Ghali told a news conference in Islamabad last week the situation in Kashmir had worsened and he promised honestly to encourage a dialogue between the two protagonists.

The offer was in accordance with the secretary-general's responsibilities under the U.N. Charter, the Pakistani spokesman said. He called the Indian posture contrary to the U.N. Charter and international law and said the hoped New Delhi would review its position and accept the offer.

More than 17,000 people have died in a four-year insurgency in the two-thirds of Kashmir under Indian rule. Muslim militants seek independence or ooioo with Pakistan, which controls the remainder of the Himalayan region.



Supporters of opposition leader Nawaz Sharif (left), shower petals during his address at Rawalpindi railway station, 15-km from Islamabad (AFP photo)

Bhutto's main opposition leader to launch long march on Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan's main opposition leader Nawaz Sharif, buoyed by the public response to his first nationwide campaign against Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, says he will now launch a long march on Islamabad.

Concluding his 1,700 kilometres (1,000 mile) two-day rail journey from Karachi to Peshawar, Sharif told a rally in the extreme northwest city that he would issue a call to march on Islamabad to force Bhutto to step down and hold fresh elections.

Mr. Sharif gave no date for the next phase of the campaign but sources in his party, claiming that the government could fall by December, said he would announce his future programme within days.

During his whistle-stop rail campaign, Mr. Sharif told large crowds en route that the political struggle launched by his Pakistan Muslim League

(PML) would continue until the "corrupt, incompetent and anti-state government" was ousted.

The train march was an action replay of one launched by his arch foe Ms. Bhutto in 1992 when Mr. Sharif himself was prime minister.

Throughout the train journey Mr. Sharif accused Ms. Bhutto's 10-month old government of political horse-trading, putting the country's integrity at stake over Kashmir and the nuclear programme and failing to offer an agenda for Pakistan's economic progress.

Analysts in Mr. Sharif's powerbase of Punjab said the train march had garnered public support which was the former premier's first aim. In Bhutto's home province Sindh the gathering at some stations was "beyond expectations," analysts said.

"Benazir has lost the support of the people and her

government is over," Mr. Sharif told journalists on board the Khyber Mail Express.

Analysts here said though Mr. Sharif succeeded in pulling crowds, the government remained well entrenched. Police kept a low profile during the rail campaign.

Ms. Bhutto herself left on a trip to Morocco and Spain ahead of the campaign saying that the train march posed no threat to her government.

Lahore's independent daily The Nation said the government spokesman had underestimated Mr. Sharif's popularity, but the opposition is also wrong in claiming that the size of crowds amounted to a referendum against the government.

Mr. Sharif, in his midnight speech in a hoarse voice at Peshawar Tuesday said he had been robbed of victory in the snap polls held in October 1993.

A better education for a better society

By Mohammad Mashariqah

Imad Younes, a Jordanian theatre director who graduated from Yarmouk University's Theatre Art Department two years ago has a good experience in artwork benefiting children.

Younes has contributed a great deal to programmes carried out by the Friends of Children Club. He is known to be enjoying high cultural qualifications, active in theatre work and over-enthusiastic about voluntary work for his community whenever he is approached to extend a helping hand.

When the Ministry of Education appointed him as an arts teacher in a school located in the outskirts of Amman, Younes did not hesitate to take up the job because he believed that an intellectual and an artist has a cultural mission to perform despite the difficulties involved.

Although Younes never specialised in the art of drawing and painting, the ministry's title for his job was teacher of arts. The Ministry of Education should not be ashamed in creating a special class for theatre art and should realise that school theatre is an art which often manifests itself in official occasions.

But as soon as Younes took up his new post at the school, he was confronted with a wave of criticism against his work on the part of certain parties. The arts room was one day broken in and its tools and instruments destroyed and on another occasion, certain parties urged students to refrain from responding to Younes' encouragement to them to take up arts but rather to oppose his moves and foil his desire to set up a school theatre group.

When Younes tried to explain his ideas about arts and theatre work and their role in the community's advancement and development, he was openly attacked not at the level of individual classes alone but at the school level too.

One day one of the school teachers stood before the 1,500 students asking them openly to boycott the arts teacher, accusing him of being an infidel who was trying to spread vice and corruption in the school. That teacher quoted sayings by the Prophet Mohammad and his companions and caliphs to back his allegations.

When Younes complained about the crusade levelled against him, suggesting that verbal attacks could easily turn into physical assault on him, the

school principal promised to find a solution to that problem.

But the hostility never stopped, prompting Younes to take the matter up with the Ministry of Education which counselled patience pending arrangements for his transfer to another school.

But Younes is insisting on staying in his school and is determined to stand up to this confrontation. He says: "After passing through this experience I felt more than at any time in the past that arts and their role in society are of utmost importance."

Younes feels he has made friends and found supporters among the teachers and the students alike.

"My case has created a wide-scale controversy in the school and the town and for this reason I will not run away and will not quit teaching as I had intended earlier," stressed Younes. "I have chosen the path of confrontation so as to prove to the fanatic teacher and his likes and supporters that they are exploiting religion and abusing the Islamic faith, as I believe that theatre and art could be efficiently utilised as an important tool in education and in spreading noble values."

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

"Indeed my religious studies at the university had helped me a great deal when I turned to theatre art," he added.

The Ministry of Education's School Activities Department employs a well-known artist by the name of Maher Khammash and a musician called Mohammad Hazzaa.

Ministry officials say that Younes' problem is not unique or the only problem facing the ministry. Indeed cases similar to Younes' were often heard. Owing to the presence of fanatically-minded people who had influenced the ministry's departments for a long time.

Very few schools have a theatre-room or an arts corner and the farther away you move from Amman towards the rural region, the more you can feel that the concept of arts is a strange one to the inhabitants.

If you ask why, you are sure to get hard and bitter replies like that the ministry has a limited budget for promoting arts and indeed the ministry's total annual

budget for the whole country does not exceed JD 1,500.

Furthermore, funds allocated for promoting theatre art are normally spent on buying cups and prizes that are normally given away to those excelling in writing essays or reciting verses.

Graduates of the arts, music, theatre, painting and other schools and colleges normally accept a job as teachers of arts earning a salary not exceeding JD 130 a month and without any other incentives.

One can therefore understand why promising artists and musicians like Hakim Harb, Hassan Sabaleh, Ismat Farouk and Seif Shihadeh have preferred to remain unemployed, waiting for the chance to work for a television series or a theatre, rather than working as teachers for the Ministry of Education.

Teacher Samar Dudin once told a cultural seminar that any radical change in the society's behaviour should start at the school level and she demanded that the Ministry of Education re-examine its school curricula and the way teachers are being prepared at the institutes and universities.

Naturally these calls have gone into thin air exactly like all the resolutions and recommendations passed by the educational development conferences, simply because of the obvious obstacles impeding the path of their implementation.

Daring and revolutionary decisions are required immediately, such as cancelling half of the social sciences curricula at all school stages because these are obsolete and run contrary to the spirit of the modern age.

Indeed some of these curricula tend to consecrate ignorance and conflicts with science.

The ministry is called on to carry out a gradual change of its teaching staff and to link curricula to modern science, modern education and the experiments of the advanced and developed nations.

We demand that the ministry halt all moves to politicise the schools and religion, a practice intended to fulfil the interests of particular groups. Otherwise, any talk about modernisation and development remains unrealistic.

Any change in society should start at the school level and through curricula and teaching methods. This change should acquire top priority in the ministry's programmes.

BOOK REVIEW

A fast moving romance

Strayed At Sea
By Isam Ammari

The fact is Jordan nowadays embraces a considerable number of good poets and short story writers, but there are a few novel writers and Isam Ammari, born in Al Husn, a town in the northern part of Jordan, is one of those few. He published three novels ever since he started his literary pursuit in the late seventies — *She Came Back To The Night Of Strangers*, *Strayed At Sea* and *A Traveller With No Address* — in addition to short story collections.

This book is his second novel published in 1986. It tells about a lonely man in his early forties who falls in love with a married Lebanese woman whom he meets at Geneva Airport on his way to Paris. In Paris he has the chance to meet her twice which are surprisingly enough for him to nourish his feelings for her and to start a romance that takes him far, far away.

Through interwoven events that take place in more than one site, namely Geneva, Paris, Amman, Beirut — and in which other personalities play minor roles, the writer goes on to pave the way for the climax of his novel: The death of the heroine.

The main character of this novel is an advocate with seemingly unstable emotions who spends twenty years of his life ruminating and living on his first love while in college, meanwhile shutting the feelings inside him and dedicating his whole life to his job.

The writer exerts all efforts to make us see his hero as a great sentimentalist having a sublime faithfulness to no avail, for through the most part of the novel he seems to be a sensuous man running after his lust and we see him falling in love with the body of the woman rather than with the woman herself. So it isn't the personality, the character or the intellectuality of the woman that attracts his attention. He seems to have fallen deeply in love with her the moment she gets well dressed up for their second date revealing thus the beauty of her stature. Listen to him saying in the first person singular: "I found her waiting for me... her hair was raised over her head in a proportional, excellent hair style that revealed the beauty of her neck... A sweet smile enhanced her lips and a blazing brightness inflamed her eyes. She was wearing a black dress that wrapped her body showing her stature and I found myself standing before the all captivating beauty in the world. I went on looking at her attentively with puzzled eyes till I forgot all about myself and about others..." Similar descriptions are stressed even more vividly in other parts of the book.

The topic of the novel is ordinary, even classic. But the author is keen to frame it in a melodramatic atmosphere and to give it a modern structure — he uses extensively short sentences and tries to describe the psychological state of his characters — not very successfully because his analysis is superficial and does not probe deeply to show us the real dilemma. He often resorts to abruptness of scenes and incidents so one incident or scene brings to his mind another one from the old past. His similes are to the point at some places: "I see in this world nothing but that grey horizon...", "...there in Amman where the city squats on seven hills we wait impatiently for rain to fall with our eyes fixed on the sky as mothers would eye their children with care...", "...every now and then I checked my watch's pointers which seemed as if they stopped moving or that they were moving very slow, slower than the creeping of a tortoise struck by old age...", "...the pale pictures of the past seemed as if their eyes were staring at mine and I found not the means of showing them off." Yet at other places the simile are raw: "My days were like a prey chased by black crows..." and the attempt to run away with my days from the butchery of the black crows...", "...the violet colour reflexed shades of its derivations in her eyes and on her lips..." and she looked like a Lebanese apple ready for anyone to take it" and sometimes they are irrelevant and have no link whatsoever with the described situation "...and as a drowning man who found a straw so he clung to it with all his power... despite the fact that thorns bled his feet... and here is Iham representing a life belt..."

One traces many unnecessary repetitions of the same event all over the novel turning it into a one unchangeable, preprogrammed panorama as if the main character, or the hero, had nothing else to do but to enjoy dinners, lunches, breakfasts, coffee or cigarettes. Nearly half of the time allotted for the novel — for each novel should have a time span in which events take place — is spent on food, beverages, coffee drinking and cigarettes smoking. Moreover the author doesn't give the reader time to think or rest. The tempo of the novel is very fast and scenes and events follow each other successively and unbreakably which at times tire the reader, yet apart from this, it is obvious that the author has the necessary tools for writing. He knows the tricks of excitement and suspense that make a novel enjoyable to read. One comes out with the impression that it is a novel better suited for movies than for reading.

Muhammad Daoud Tahboub

Fiery filmmaker Lina Wertmuller mellows with *Ciao, Professore*

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — With her ski-cap of short, white hair, huge sun glasses and pendulous jewelry, she might be anybody's eccentric aunt. But this is Lina Wertmuller, pioneering woman director and a force all her own.

Wertmuller is the maker of a series of bold, often outrageous films, and her achievements are legendary. She received the first Academy Award nomination for a woman as Best Director (Seven Beauties in 1976) and is a successful playwright and writer-director of provocative sex comedies, often starring Giancarlo Giannini.

Wertmuller made one of her rare visits to Hollywood to talk about her

new film, *Ciao, Professore* although she seems as peppery as ever, the movie reflects a mellower Wertmuller, with its overtones of *To Sir With Love* and *Dead Poets Society*.

Italian favourite Paolo Villaggio plays a school teacher from the north who is assigned because of a clerical error to a primary school in Naples. He faces an impossible situation, because the street kids are determined not to be educated. He finally is transferred, believing himself a failure, but his students think otherwise.

Where did she find such great kids?

"In the streets of Naples," she said. "I had a great selection because I talked to — I don't know how many — many, many thousand. Finally, I came down to 60, and with this

60 I began to study for the best selection. It is not easy, because they don't speak Italian, they speak Neapolitan.

"Little by little they began to fall in love with this work, because it is exactly like a game. They are wonderful in that, because they are very serious when they play a game. It became easy (to direct them) because they were playing a game together. They knew all the script, not just their parts, but everyone's. Even the mothers, the fathers, they memorise the script."

Wertmuller was asked about the saying that all Italians are actors. After consulting with her interpreter about the question, she replied:

"No, no. But the Neapolitans more than the others. They are a special

people, with the sun, the music, the vitality. I think the most acting people in Italy are the Neapolitans and the Sicilians. Not Palermo, but Catania."

She admitted that shooting in Naples was difficult "because it is so full of noise and confusion." She had to move out of the city to shoot many of the scenes.

Now that Federico Fellini is gone, Lina Wertmuller is one of the last of the great directors who gave luster to the Italian cinema in the postwar and later years. She manages to get her projects made, but she admitted that it isn't easy for other filmmakers.

When asked about the state of the Italian film business, she laughed bitterly.

"It's full of problems,

full of problems, not only in Italy, but in all of Europe," she said. "The cinemas are full of American pictures. But the problem in Europe is also because we don't buy French pictures, the French don't buy Italian pictures, the same with the Spanish and the Germans and the English."

"I think it's very important to work together. Because Europe is Europe, and our singular movies and our culture are important."

Wertmuller was born in Rome 64 years ago, her father a lawyer of aristocratic Swiss descent. Her rebellion started early, causing her dismissal from several Catholic schools. Her insight for *Ciao, Professore* stems from the fact that she started her own working

career as a schoolteacher.

But the theatrical world intrigued her, and she toured Europe with a puppet troupe, then became a dramatic actress in the theatre. In 1963, a close friend, Marcello Mastroianni persuaded Fellini to hire Wertmuller as an assistant director on *8 1/2*. That same year she wrote and directed her first film, *The Lizards*.

Soon she joined forces with Giannini for *The Seduction of Mimi*, which won her the director's prize at the Cannes Film Festival and made her an international figure. He continued playing the shiftless, disheveled wanderer in *All Screwed Up*, *Sweet Away*, *Seven Beauties* and other Wertmuller films which were characteristically redolent with sex and politics.

Why not call it the Häagen-Dazs diet?

By Helen Kon

Picture the scene. It is 5.30 in the afternoon and I am sitting at a table surrounded by three assorted bars of milk chocolate, a pot of Häagen-Dazs ice-cream, a croissant and a jam doughnut. No, I am not Bessie Bunter but trying out the latest diet to hit our shores from the United States. "The Carbohydrate Addict's Diet" promises to be your lifelong solution to weight control. I thought I had seen them all — calorie-controlled, fat-free, milkshake, diet cookie, banana diets — but this one really takes the biscuit.

Let me put my cards on the table here and now. I am not a serious dieter. I have never lost weight nor have I stuck to any sort of eating (or starving) plan for more than two weeks at a time. I am about 10 pounds heavier than I ought to be, and it is only the thought of summer holidays and swimming costumes that force me to consider my excess hag-

So what are the rules of this latest wonder diet that promises to stop the weight loss/weight gain see-saw for ever? I am allowed three meals a day, two of which should contain no carbohydrates. That means I can have protein and green salad or certain vegetables only. No fruit, bread, pasta, potatoes...

That is the bad news. The good bit is that I am "rewarded" at the third meal — which may be eaten at any time of the day. The diet recommends a balanced meal, including pasta, bread, dessert and fruit, but allows me to have whatever I want — provided I take no longer than 60 minutes to eat it.

The strict time limit, apparently, is all to do with fooling the body into thinking that you are not really eating very much. And this is where it starts to get technical.

When blood glucose levels are high — for example, when you eat high-carbohydrate foods — the pancreas is stimulated to

promote absorption of glucose by the liver and the muscles (where it is stored as energy). The production of insulin also produces those gnawing hunger pangs.

The one-hour deadline on the "reward" meal is supposed to ensure that not too much insulin is released into the system — thus limiting the hunger pangs.

Weight loss should be gradual, no more than 2 1/2 lbs a week, but the promise is that if you stick to this pattern of eating permanently, your excess weight will come off and stay off.

Dr. Rachael Heller, who discovered the diet, was a long-term fatty who has now been a slim eight stone for several years. She claims to have helped hundreds, even thousands, of people through the Carbohydrate Centre that she and her husband, Richard, have established in New York.

This was too good to pass up, I thought. Eat whatever you want for

still lose weight? This is too good to be true so I decided to put the diet to the test.

A late protein breakfast consisting of cheese omelette or kippers and salad at around 11 a.m. or later, did banish all feelings of hunger until at least 5 p.m. Since this has traditionally been the "nibbling" time of day for me I decided to take my reward meal then. I'm afraid that I ignored all concept of a balanced meal and my meal consisted entirely of foods that I have been limiting or denying myself for months.

For the first two weeks I made regular sorties to the local news-agent to ensure I had abundant supplies of chocolate. A typical reward meal would consist of three different bars of chocolate and any other fattening cakes that had tempted me from the bakery window, topped up with the latest flavour in American ice cream. I wasn't going to waste this hour on boring foods like pasta or bread. I was like a

child being let loose in a sweet shop.

I am absolutely positive that my intake of chocolate in those two weeks far exceeded the total of this whole year's intake though interestingly enough I found it difficult to eat at this prodigious rate for a whole hour.

Four weeks on, and although I eat enormous quantities of former "forbidden foods", I have now added more sensible foods like macaroni cheese or fish and chips to my "happy hour", as it has become known in our house.

I have kept very strictly to the rules and follow my reward meal a couple of hours later with a high-protein meal, although I am hardly hungry and occasionally give this third boring meal a miss altogether.

I have become adept at fiddling my social and eating life round this "happy hour". My piece de résistance has been a chocolate fondue evening — masses of fruit and boudoir biscuits dipped into a heart-warming mix-

ture of white Toblerone with double cream and brandy — consumed within the prescribed hour. Not bad for someone on a diet.

Reaction among friends to my latest fad has varied from disbelief to outright hilarity. This has not stopped me. Have I lost any weight? After two weeks I had lost a pound and thought I was on course for the steady weight loss they had promised.

Four weeks on, I have not budged an ounce, nor, amazingly have I gained weight. Disappointing though this may be, the enjoyment that I get out of my "happy hour" far surpasses any thought of weight loss and if I can remain at my current weight, then maybe it is worth continuing.

I rarely feel hungry, have no inclination to nibble, and though I am convinced that this diet, or at least the way I have chosen to follow it, cannot be of much benefit nutritionally, I'm carrying on. I am having so much fun — The Independent.

Thoughts for this week

Ask yourself whether you are happy, and you cease to be so — John Stuart Mill, English philosopher-economist (1806-1873).

Don't forget to love yourself — Soren Kierkegaard, Danish philosopher (1813-1855).

It's not love's going hurts my days/ but that it went in little ways — Edna St. Vincent Millay, American author and poet (1892-1950).

In every person, even in such as appear most reckless, there is an inherent desire to attain balance — Jakob Wassermann, German author (1873-1933).

No dreamland

By Jean-Claude Elias

Life is but a series of compromises and working with a personal computer (PC) is certainly no exception. Although the main reason why we often have to compromise is the lack of perfect solutions is simply, sadly, technical considerations also interfere, preventing us from taking ideal decisions.

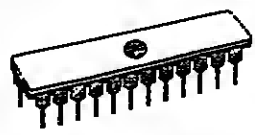
Let's jump right into a first example. You want to purchase a new monitor (screen) for your PC and make sure you had enough cash to buy at least a 17" model. Sizes usually go from 9" to 21", with the 14" model being the most commonly used.

The problem is that smaller screens usually have better image attributes than the larger ones. The resolution is higher, the lines sharper, the colours brighter and the overall picture contrast better. Just like TV sets. So what do you buy? A large screen that would be perfect for games and CAD (Computer Aided Design) or a medium size one that would let you enjoy a higher quality picture and that would fit on any desk?

Backing up the data files, a vital operation that any PC user should regularly perform, is another example of how to evaluate things before acquiring additional hardware. Knowing that there is no such thing as an optimal solution. Tape back up is very practical and inexpensive. It is, however, slow and somewhat unreliable. Floppy disk is the cheapest form of back up but is not suitable for large files. Hard disk back up is fast, reliable but expensive and requires a delicate handling of the media itself.

Choosing a good printer doesn't sound like a compromise either. Do we get an excellent laser printer with razor sharp printout but limited to regular size paper and black ink only, or a dot-matrix model that handles large, A3 size paper, though its printing quality is well under the laser's?

chip talk



Even software selection is never easy. Microsoft best selling Word 6.0 word processor is feature laden and does just about everything you need but ironing your shirts. However, it will eat up to 17 MB (megabytes or millions of characters) of your hard disk and takes several seconds to start working each time you load it. On the other side, Airus Write Now programme occupies only 300 KB (kilobytes or thousands of characters), loads in a split second, works at lightning speed but does not have but a tiny fraction of Word 6.0 capability. Where do you go from here?

Bigger or more expensive is not always better. Sometimes even faster is not necessarily preferable. Some pieces of software and computer games actually do not work with fast clock rates. A famous case is the "PC Globe, version 5.0" that cannot be activated if the system is running at 66 MHz. It needs 50 or 33 MHz for that. Fortunately, most machines have turbo switches that let the user reduce the clock speed.

The computer specialists themselves have hard times going in the right direction. Trial and error often is the standard approach, though some thinking and careful analysis would certainly reduce the amount of damage such a procedure would cause to our wallet and/or to our precious time capital.

The archipelago of things to come

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

(1) The Archipelago of Architecture

Scattered islands in an expanse of water are called an "archipelago." Stockholm (Sweden), by virtue of its location — built on twenty two islands — is arguably one of the most beautiful capital cities in the world; the Stockholm Archipelago consists of ten thousand islands most of which are uninhabited. Architecture, like any other field of knowledge, has been ossified into a rigid structure of knowledge over many centuries of development. Rapid conceptual changes are at present, in the West at least, attacking this rigid structure with the inevitable result of loosening it up so that it can flow into a new and complex social mainstream. As the continuity of architectural culture is lost, the world of architecture becomes fragmented into detached and lone works, an archipelago of architecture.

Architecture must learn to flow in the new, risky and unknown ways in which society itself is beginning to flow. More than this, it must embody new coherences within the turbulent streams of modern life; and even more, architecture must instigate streams and turbulences of its own, participating and not merely expressing. There is neither the time nor the need to express anything anymore, but only to be, or better yet, to become.

(2) Art and Truth: A Problem of Definition

What is knowledge? What is truth? What is time? What is beauty? What is art? In philosophy, since the time of Socrates, there has been an assumption that it

should be possible to define the words in question, and that we do not really know what we are talking about if we cannot define our words. Nowadays it is no longer assumed so widely that definitions of this kind must or should be available. Merely verbal questions of this kind may be among the most important questions we can ask, having to do with fundamental concerns of human life.

The attempt to define art has a certain urgency which makes it different from attempts to define knowledge, truth, etc. If I, an ordinary consumer of art, have gone to some trouble to visit an art gallery, theatre or concert hall, I may complain that my time and money have been wasted, that what has been presented to me is not merely not good art (which may be a matter of taste), but that it is not to be recognised as art at all, since it does not conform to what is normally understood by this word.

Concepts such as those of art, knowledge and truth do not spring up at random; they are reflections of human needs and interests, of the situation in which we find ourselves and our perception of the world in which we live. Controversy has been a characteristic feature of the concept of art. But today, it is in a state of crisis unlike any that existed before. Almost daily we are confronted with new kinds of objects or performances which challenge our notions of what art ought to be.

If the only requirement on art is that of novelty, then we must not be surprised to find an ever wider range of objects and performances being put forward as art, until, it would seem, anything might become describable as art.

Samer Bagaeen teaches architecture at the Applied Science University.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

GOOD MORNING

Differential Risks

I don't know why grown ups take dangerous risks (some of which are lethal). Presumably normal people overest. drink more than they should, race cars, gamble, smoke, speed, cheat (sometimes calling it private enterprise). But if it's a teenager taking the risk, Watch out for all the labels, interpretations, and diagnostic categorisations pasted on him or her.

★ ★ ★

AMAZING FACTS

Not only the cow and the goat are used for milk and cheese making, in some parts of the world, farmers milk reindeer, llamas and yaks!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Surprisingly enough, the tomato is classed as a fruit by botanists because it contains seeds. It is regarded as a berry, like the raspberry or strawberry. Some other foods we use as vegetables are regarded as fruits — runner beans and cucumbers for example.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

An old Russian tradition compelled the most outstanding figure attending a wedding to sign a statement: ensuring the continuity of marriage for at least a month, otherwise he had to pay 150 roubles as a fine.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

In the islands of the Seychelles, the inhabitants grow palms which produce huge, double coconuts which can weigh up to 18 lbs!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A stag, aged 22, took up a position of a mayor in Lagitas, a town in Texas!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PARTLY GAMES

THE MILK BOTTLE RACE

(Any above 10 - Indoors & outdoors)

All you need for this game are two or more empty milk bottles, a fairly long piece of string for each bottle, each piece being of the same length, and short sticks (even pencils will do).

Tie one end of each piece of string firmly to a milk bottle and the other end to a stick (or pencil). Lay the sticks out on the floor or ground, leaving the sticks across their knees. On the starting signal they twist the sticks to wind up the string; the first one to get the bottle up to touch the stick is the winner. Heats and finals can be run if so desired.

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Which of the following metals are attracted by a magnet? — tin, brass, nickel, radium, iron, osmium.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

2. In what English towns are the following streets to be found? — Briggate, Long Row, Deansgate, Coney Street, Fargate.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

3. What were the first books published by the following? — Dickens, Tennyson, Hardy.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

4. What entirely different meanings has the word "FLAG"?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

5. In what part of a house would you find the following? — purlin, joist, newel.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TIME FOR FUN

At Cairo Railway Local Broadcasting Station the following announcement was made: "We attract passengers' attention that the next train going to Aswan is now moving from Aswan!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A man once bought a piece of meat and placed it on the table in front of his hungry children saying: "Each one has to chew it quite a little and then give it out to his brother sitting next to him!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

POLICE OFFICER: "You're accused of hitting the lamp-post while drinking." DRUNKARD: "No, sir. (He) was mistaken not me. Why was he standing in the street?"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

CHARMING SECRETARY: "You'll see the doctor after 5 minutes, sir." VISITOR: "Just 5 Minutes! What a pity!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A friend at a law-court asked a janitor who had spent 20 years in service: "How much is your salary now?" JANITOR: "Both the judge and I charge JD 800"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PUZZLES

INSERT THE MISSING LETTERS

A	F	?	J	I
D	C	?	G	L

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Sept. 15

7:15 Battlestar Galactica

9:10 Murder She Wrote

How To Make A Killing Without Really Trying

A rich businessman escapes an assassination attempt. His friend Mrs. Fletcher starts investigating his associates.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week — Shadow Of Doubt

Starring: Teresa Wright and Joseph Cotton

How can the police tell a young girl that her uncle is a murderer and wanted by the police? The girl strives to prove that without a shadow of doubt her uncle is innocent.

Friday, Sept. 16

7:15 In Spite Of All

7:30 The Munsters Today

Hermen is sick. His many "personalities" frighten his wife and drive her to call for a doctor

8:30 G.P.

Memories

A woman lies in a coma as a result of a "mistake." A legal claim is filed against the clinic.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Emilie

Emilie stays with Charlotte on her dying bed. She looks ahead for the New Year of 1902 and a little baby.

Saturday, Sept. 17

7:30 Dimension

8:30 Movies, Games And Videos

9:10 The Campbells

The Firebrand

A newspaper is attacked for speaking openly against the British.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Missing

Starring: Jack Lemmon, Sissy Spacek and John Shea

Sunday, Sept. 18

7:15 F.B.I. — Untold Stories

Lady Skyjacker

Under the threat of a bomb explosion on board a plane, the F.B.I. negotiates with a woman hijacker the release of a longtime prisoner.

8:30 Step By Step

9:10 Quantum Leap

Future Boy

Sam brings together a daughter and a father whose relationship has soured.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Snowy River

Where There's Smoke

Anita is back with revenge on her mind — while Luke has got "glitter" in his eyes.

Monday, Sept. 19

7:30 Black Beauty

Daylight Robbery

The sinking of the ship Estonia and the disappearance of Beauty lie heavy on Bella's mind.

8:30 Home Free

Front Page

Mathiew and sister are out to expose a judge who receives bribes.

9:10 Galactic Odyssey

10:00 News In English

10:20 Matrix

Conviction Of His Courage

Matrix is called upon to save the life of a doctor whose life is threatened by a gang that deals with stolen weapons.

10:50 No Job For A Lady

Tuesday, Sept. 20

7:30 Innovation

Down In The Dumps

How can man get his environment free from trash? Recycling seems a great idea.

9:10 The Commish

Commissions Ball

10:00 News In English

10:20 Come In Spinner

Wednesday, Sept. 21

8:30 Bob

P.C. Or Not P.C.

Patricia has a hard time deciding whether to continue work at her dad's firm.

9:10 The Nature Of Things

Powerful Medicine

Plants have been man's main source of medicines; with the continuous flow of new technologies, the future holds even greater opportunities for man to take.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Nanny

The Playwright

The Nanny regrets going out on a date with an old school friend.

10:50 Poldark

Caroline receives the wounded Dwight.

By Paul Mayendie

BRITISH DESIGNER Paul Mayendie has created a collection of clothing for the autumn/winter season. The collection is inspired by the architecture of the British Isles, particularly the rugged coastline of the Scottish Highlands. Mayendie's designs feature a mix of traditional Scottish kilts and modern, tailored suits. The collection is set to be showcased in a series of fashion shows across the UK and Europe.

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By Richard Bruce
AUSTRIAN DESIGNER Richard Bruce has created a collection of clothing for the autumn/winter season. The collection is inspired by the architecture of the British Isles, particularly the rugged coastline of the Scottish Highlands. Bruce's designs feature a mix of traditional Scottish kilts and modern, tailored suits. The collection is set to be showcased in a series of fashion shows across the UK and Europe.

Brigitte Bardot's two lives laid bare in new biography

By Paul Majendie

Reuter
LONDON — When Brigitte Bardot starred in *And God Created Woman*, police in Dallas, Texas banned blacks from seeing the film in case they became too excited.

In upstate New York, a priest bought all the tickets at a local cinema to stop people in 1956 seeing her nude on screen.

Now, approaching her 60th birthday, the French "sex kitten" once idolised by millions of men has found serenity at last in her second life as an animal rights activist campaigning for everything from Canadian seals to Mongolian wolves.

A sex symbol who attempted suicide several times, a film star bored with movie-making, a failed mother who did not see her son for 10 years — her life is awash with conflicts and contrasts.

Now, after interviewing her husbands, lovers, family, friends and collaborators, American au-

thor Jeffrey Robinson has come up with a biography that highlights that dichotomy. It is entitled: *Bardot: Two Lives*.

Husband number one, film director Roger Vadim, said of the woman he moulded into an icon: "The first time I saw her she was still 14 and there was no doubt in my mind she was from another planet."

Husband number two, Jacques Charrier, twice attempted suicide, overwhelmed by the pressures of being Monsieur Bardot.

Husband number three, Gunter Sachs, bombarded her St. Tropez house with hundreds of roses dropped from a helicopter. "I romanced her like a circus performer," he proudly boasts.

Husband number four, Bernard D'Ormale, plunged her into controversy because of his friendship with extreme right-wing French politician Jean-Marie Le Pen.

Bardot, also wooed with roses by Robinson

before she granted him an interview, says of her work with animals at the head of the Bardot Foundation: "I have been born again. Everything before my work with animals has nothing to do with me."

"It is not a job, it is a religion," she says of the crusade that has possessed her since she gave up the cinema in 1973. In her career, she made 48 films in 21 years to rival Marilyn Monroe as one of the great sex goddesses of the century.

Talking about her films, many of them indifferent potboilers, bores her. But turn the subject to any endangered species and she comes alive, arguing: "Anyone who wears fur is wearing a cemetery on their backs."

The foundation was launched by one of the most upmarket garage sales in the world — Bardot cleared her cupboard of everything from jewels to film costumes and sold them all at a glittering

Paris auction.

She has campaigned to save dolphins, stopped elephant ivory poachers, cuddled baby seals on Canadian ice floes and even stopped a French restaurant caging a panther.

Now, the barefoot goddess with the famous pout that set male pulses racing everywhere, says: "I don't see old age arriving with anxiety or serenity. I just see it arriving. I won't have my skin stretched. I never use face cream."

Offers to return to the screen — from *The Pink Panther* with Peter Sellers to *The Thomas Crown Affair* with Steve McQueen — were always firmly turned down. Animals now are her life and much more satisfying than the elusive search for the perfect man.

Writing her own epitaph with insouciance, she says of her tempestuous life: "I wait for love, find it, take it, lose it. It goes away. It comes back again."

The paparazzi cameramen who dogged her every step used to drive her wild. She gave birth to son Nicholas in her Paris apartment where she became a virtual prisoner of their prying lenses.

She complained at the height of her fame: "I have no life to speak of at all. I am a hunted woman. I cannot take a step without being surrounded and questioned. I am being tortured."

The glare of publicity drove her to slash her wrists in desperation. Her mood swings exhausted and drained her lovers.

German millionaire Sachs said: "I couldn't tell 10 minutes ahead what she was going to be like. She goes from being wonderfully happy to being extremely annoyed in seconds."

Vadim, who made her a star, says of Bardot: "There is still at the very bottom of her soul a colossal loneliness that is the result of a colossal ego."

And, even with the pas-



Brigitte Bardot

sing of the years, he concludes: "Passion was a drug to her. And as with any drug, she would be enslaved with it all her life."

Animal actors — Who's looking out for Lassie?

By Maura Reynolds
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Jesse James was being filmed in 1939. A stuntman rode a horse off a 70-foot (21-metre) cliff into raging white water. The stuntman lived. The horse did not.

The American Humane Association (AHA) reacted to the animal's death by establishing a Hollywood office dedicated to tracking the welfare of animals in the entertainment industry.

Five decades later, animal rights activists say the AHA has lost sight of its purpose, and even accepts money from the industry it claims to monitor.

According to court documents obtained by the Associated Press, the AHA has received regular donations over the years from several industry groups, including the Motion Picture Association of America.

"The relationship between the AHA and the industry certainly presents the appearance of a conflict of interest," says

Nancy Burnet, who heads the coalition to protect animals in entertainment. "I think it's unethical of them to accept money from the people they are supposed to be watching."

AHA officials say the arguments are groundless. "There is absolutely no amount of money in the world that would allow me to allow anyone to harm an animal," says AHA staffer Barbara Sand.

She suggests the issue can be seen as a conflict between activists for animal welfare and activists for animal rights. While the AHA works to protect animal welfare, she says, others would prefer if animals never were used in entertainment.

Such groups as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals have stated that using animals for human entertainment is exploitive — a charge that has gained some following among Hollywood activists.

"Animals don't have careers," says Ms. Burnet. "Animals don't have any choice."

More and more animals

are being turned into movie stars. In 1988, animals appeared in only 10 per cent of all film productions. Six years later, with shrinking production budgets and a demand for family films, they can be found in about 50 per cent, the AHA said.

Movies such as *Free Willy*, about a boy and a killer whale, and *Beethoven*, about a family and a St. Bernard, have proved

to be box-office successes. But the warm, cuddly feeling inspired by animal movies can mask a harsher truth, some contend.

"Things are not as rosy as they would lead the public to believe," Ms. Burnet said.

The latest dispute centres on last winter's Disney movie *Iron Will*.

The film tells the story of a 17-year-old who sets out to save the family farm and earn money for uni-

versity by winning a \$10,000 dog-sled race. At one point in the movie, one of his dogs fights with a dog from a rival team.

When the scene was filmed last year in Minnesota, one of the dogs was injured, receiving a cut under his eyelid that was mended with stitches.

The trainers on the set bristle with irritation when asked about the incident. For them, the injury was a rare accident, the kind of

thing that happens from time to time even with the best of precautions.

"We've never had an accident before," says Joe Camp, Iron Will head trainer. "I'm really upset with the animal-training community. They are taking an incident that is very small and are making it much larger."

As Mr. Camp explains it, the two dogs were trained separately to wrestle. One was taught to

assume the dominant position, and the other to assume a submissive position. As a precaution, the dogs' mouths were bound with a plastic strap that prevented them from biting each other.

Mr. Camp calls it a "simulated" dog fight. But other trainers disagree.

"That's not a fake fight," says trainer Clint Rowe, whose recent credits include scenes in *Wolf* and *Lassie*.

"It's very real to the dogs," he said.

Mr. Rowe says it doesn't matter to the dogs if they are wearing a string muzzle. They are still in a physical and emotional state of agitation and fear. And the Iron Will accident only proves the argument that the method is inhumane.

Mr. Rowe prefers a technique called "play fighting," in which two dogs who like each other are trained to rough-house on command. Mr. Rowe says the dogs think they are playing, but with the right camera angles and editing, it can look on

screen like a vicious battle. It is a technique Mr. Rowe used on the highly acclaimed Disney film *White Fang*.

The AHA has not taken a position on muzzled fights. Los Angeles director Betty Denny Smith says the organisation's guidelines require dog fights to be "simulated," but does not prefer one technique over another.

"There are good trainers on both sides," Ms. Smith says. "Some feel one way is the best and the safest and others feel another way is the best and the safest."

It is the AHA's latitude on such issues that infuriates the animal rights community. Groups such as Ms. Burnet's coalition want the AHA to be more of an enforcer, aggressively investigating abuse and bringing the perpetrators to justice. And they point out that while industry contracts allow the association the right to screen and monitor film and television productions, AHA staffers do not have the authority to issue citations.

List of unacceptable films

The American Humane Association (AHA) keeps a list of films deemed unacceptable because of animal abuse. AHA officials note that the number of unacceptable pictures has dwindled in recent years, and most of them were made overseas. No movies have been rated unacceptable since 1991.

Some of the movies the AHA has found unacceptable over the years and the reasons for the listing:

- *Apocalypse Now*: Water buffalo hacked to pieces (1979)
- *Heaven's Gate*: Horse blown up, illegal cockfight staged, cattle and chickens killed to get real blood to smear on actors (1981)
- *Reds*: Horses wire-tripped (1981)
- *Conan The Barbarian*: Horses tripped and other animals physically abused (1982)
- *Faces Of Death*, parts I and II: Dog fighting, monkey killed on camera and brains eaten, and sea otter, shark, alligator, other animals shot

— *Rambo III*: Horses tripped during filming in Israel (1988)

— *Vampire's Kiss*: Two cockroaches eaten by actor Nicholas Cage (1988)

— *Lawrence Of Arabia*: Harsh treatment of horses and camels (1962, rereleased in 1989)

— *The Abyss*: Rat submerged in oxygenated liquid (1989)

— *Lord Of The Flies*: Puffer fish caught by local fisherman was still alive when it was filmed being speared during filming in Jamaica (1989)

— *Roger And Me*: Documentary includes footage of rabbit being killed and skinned (1989)

— *The Field*: Cattle fall off cliff while filming in Ireland (1990)

— *In The blood*: Documentary on big game hunting, includes footage of animals being killed (1990)

Australians mark centenary of Waltzing Matilda

By Richard Breeze

Agence France Presse
WINTON, Australia — A hundred years ago Samuel Hoffmeister galloped away to his death after a gun battle around a blazing wool shed and has achieved immortality in Australia's best known song, *Waltzing Matilda*.

Hoffmeister, a leader in a landmark strike pitching shearers against land holders, shot himself on Sept. 2, 1894 near Combo billabong, 140 kilometres (88 miles) from here, and is believed to be the model for the tragic swagman in the haunting ballad.

"*Waltzing Matilda* is actually a very subtle allegory — a symbolic story — appealing for a fair go for all Australians," said historian Richard Magoffin, who organised dawn ceremonies near the Billabong at what he says is Hoffmeister's grave.

Five months after the shearers' suicide, hush poet Andrew "Banjo" Paterson visited Dagworth sheep station, scene of the gun battle, and picked up the billabong, or waterhole. He later crafted the lyrics to fit an old air his girlfriend was continually humming.

on April 6, 1895 at the North Gregory Hotel on the main street here and has become, in the minds of many Australians, the national anthem.

"*Waltzing Matilda* is full of code words, but celebrates Australians' spirit of defiance," said Jonathan King who is organising 10 days of celebrations here in April to mark the centenary of this first performance.

The concerts, rodeo, racing and other outback events are expected to draw 10,000 people to this slow-paced Queensland town, whose impeccably clean streets are currently home to 1,200.

Many visitors had better bring their "matilda" with them.

This is local slang for a swag, or bedroll, which itinerant shearers — known as swagmen — carried as they walked or rode long distances between farms which could cover 3,120 square kilometres (1,200 square miles).

Historians trace the term "waltzing" to the phrase "auf der waltz," or walking round the coun-

try, used by Germans gold fields in the 1850s. Local septugenarian Leon Angelli recalled waltzing his matilda here nearly 50 years ago.

"I used to average four miles a day carrying my swag and a gallon of water. Often I used to spend a fortnight out in the bush," he said.

At the billabong — an Aboriginal term for standing water on a flood plain — the same coolibah trees which shaded the shearer and Paterson still lean over the tea-brown waters set in an immense plain of yellow-ochre grass.

Paterson's swagman steals a "jumbuck," or sheep, a term based on an Aboriginal word for fluffy white clouds, and stuffs it in his tuckerbag or food sack.

When the local farmer, or "squatter," accompanied by three troopers threatens to arrest him, the swagman drowns himself shouting — in some versions of the song — "you'll never catch me alive."

"I've jumped in the billabong, it is deep enough to drown in," said King. The billabong adjoins Dagworth sheep station attacked by Hoffmeister and 15 other men who

Lyrics to Waltzing Matilda

WINTON, Australia (AFP) — There are several versions of *Waltzing Matilda*. The O'Neill version is:

Once there was a swagman camped on a billabong
Under the shade of a coolibah tree,
And he sang as he waited till his billy boiled
You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me...

Down came a jumbuck to drink at the billabong
Up jumped the swagman and grabbed him with glee,
And he sang as he cut him up and put him in his tuckerbag
You'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me

Up came the squatter mounted on his thoroughbred
Up came the troopers — one, two, three,
Where's that jolly jumbuck you've got in your tuckerbag
You'll come a waltzing Matilda with me

Up jumped the swagman and jumped into the billabong
You'll never take me alive, said he,
While his ghost may be heard as you pass by that billabong,
Singing, you'll come a-waltzing Matilda with me.

And 140 sheep in a violent culmination to the 1894 shearers' strike.

The reasons for Hoffmeister's suicide remain a mystery, but it is believed he was disturbed by the

But not all historians believe it is proven that Hoffmeister was the model for the swagman.

"It's a silly song, but we're a silly lot," said

Chris De Burgh brings Beirut alive

By Haitham Haddadin
Reuter

BEIRUT — The mountains above Beirut echoed to a different beat at the weekend — the driving music of rock star Chris De Burgh — in two rare shows by an international artist since the 1975-90 civil war ended.

Beirut comes alive again later this month with concerts by French singer Patricia Kaas and the famed lady of Lebanese song, Fairouz, in what Lebanese see as proof that life is getting back to normal and it is time for Beirut to become a fun city again.

"This is what these kids have been waiting for years," said a Western journalist watching the ecstatic crowd of 10,000 dance and sing to De Burgh's beat.

"You're one of the best audiences I ever saw. This is like playing among friends," De Burgh told the swaying throng of young girls in jeans or miniskirts and tight tops and young men in jeans and T-shirts, many sporting ponytail hair-dos.

"When I get home I will tell everybody to come to Lebanon to give concerts," he said.

wherever he went in the city, the Irish pop star said he was not afraid to set foot in Beirut — once a synonym for bombings and kidnappings, including that of his countryman Brian Keenan.

"I was in Moscow recently and I did feel afraid there because of the gangsters. But I don't feel afraid here," he told a news conference.

Keenan, one of many Westerners taken hostage in Lebanon by pro-Iranian Muslim militant groups, was held for four years until 1990. The United States still forbids its citizens to visit Lebanon.

"What amazes me is the regeneration of life in Beirut. People are full of life and fun and want to live," De Burgh said.

"Before the war beautiful women and the beautiful people would go there," he said of pre-war Beirut. "But the second image is a complete contrast: That of the terrible things that happened... the people that had been kidnapped... the bombings."

Some Westerners, who started venturing back to Lebanon after the kidnappings ceased, attended the concerts in the picturesque mountains east of Beirut.

De Burgh, under a wall of red, blue and yellow lights, sang himself hoarse Friday in a half-hour of encores.

His latest hit *Blonde Hair, Blue Jeans* was met with cheers but signature tunes like *Lady In Red* and *Spanish Train* and an added bonus, the Beatles' 1960s hit *Hey Jude*, were the songs that brought most people out.

"It was like an explosion. The kids knew every song he'd ever written and they just sang and swayed all the way through," said a British journalist.

Kaas is to perform on Sept. 20 and Fairouz will play on the 17th in the war-damaged centre of Beirut in a concert lifting the curtain on a 25-year reconstruction programme.

"I decided to bring international acts, not unknown ones. It's time for Beirut to regain its leading role in this field," said Naji Baz, whose Buzz Productions contracted De Burgh's concert.

He said British singers Elton John and Sting may come to Beirut in 1995.

Other Western pop stars and bands, like Samantha Fox, Dr Alban and Enigma, have performed in Beirut since the war ended.

New drug cure gives addicts painless 'cold turkey'

By Richard Bastin
Reuter

SEVILLE, Spain — A painless, one-day drug treatment, pioneered in Seville, enables addicts to go through withdrawal symptoms in an intense burst while unconscious, thus avoiding the dreaded 'cold turkey'.

Psychologist Juan Jose Legarda, the man behind the breakthrough, says the accelerated detoxification method can help even hardened heroin and cocaine users to give up drugs.

His claims are backed by a success rate of more than 90 per cent among the 350 patients he has treated since 1992 in the Cita Drugs Clinic in this southern Spanish city.

Dr. Legarda says only half of those who enroll in traditional drug treatment

programmes ever finish the course, while 30 per cent of addicts never even seek help because of fear and the inability to cope with withdrawal symptoms.

The new process uses the chemical naltrexone, which speeds the physical reaction to withdrawal so that it occurs in a compressed time-frame, usually not exceeding four hours.

Patients are anaesthetised and placed in an intensive care unit where they are monitored throughout the treatment.

"Experiencing such intense effects while unconscious would be terrible, like open-heart surgery without anaesthetic, so we decided to try anaesthetic," said Dr. Legarda, who holds a doctorate in addiction treatment from London's Maudsley Hos-

pital. Upon waking, Dr. Legarda says, patients are drug-free with minimal side-effects. Some complain afterwards of stomach and muscle problems which had previously been masked because heroin itself is a powerful anaesthetic.

Addicts tempted to go back to drugs find themselves disappointed as the "high" is countered by a daily dose of naltrexone, which, with regular counselling, continues for a year after the crash detoxification.

"After a couple of weeks I bought some heroin because I was bored, but nothing happened, it was a waste of money," said one of Dr. Legarda's former patients. Dr. Legarda took most of his early patients from Tocina, a small town of

8,000 people 40 kilometres east of Seville. The first addicts seeking help were introduced to him by the local priest.

Some 60 per cent of those who complete standard rehabilitation courses go back on drugs a year later, Dr. Legarda said. In comparison, only two out of 37 addicts from Tocina are back on drugs after an average of 20 months following treatment.

The high success rate complements strong economic arguments in favour of the new technique. Dr. Legarda charges 250,000 pesetas (\$1,900) for the cure. Traditional in-patient treatments require a 10-day hospital stay costing at least 50 per cent more.

No lasting physical or psychological side-effects

have been found and the patients are amazed by the results.

"My whole world was heroin, it was the only thing I could think of. The cure has been a complete miracle," said Dr. Legarda's first patient, 23-year-old Juan, who spoke to Reuters in Tocina.

Word of Juan's cure spread quickly among addicts in the town, most of whom had already tried conventional detoxification methods without success.

Spurred on by the news that the "living hell" of withdrawal symptoms could be avoided, more and more took the treatment until even the local drug pusher, who found himself unemployed, tried Dr. Legarda's method.

The cured addicts view Dr. Legarda as a saviour. "He's the second god,"

said 25-year-old Aurelio, who used to spend 5,000 pesetas (\$38) a day on heroin.

Some locals founded a group called Aurora (dawn) to help former addicts. They say Tocina is now a drug-free oasis.

Dr. Legarda has opened private surgeries in Madrid, Barcelona, San Sebastian and Tel Aviv, where several of his patients are Israeli army veterans who developed addictions to powerful medicines used to treat war wounds.

Dr. Legarda says the new technique can be used to cure any opiate addict. In one extreme case, a Spaniard who took eight grammes of heroin a day, 20 times as much as most addicts, was cured after an eight-and-a-half hour sedation.

Despite the success of

the treatment, Dr. Legarda has struggled for recognition in Spain. He blames government reluctance to implement a private sector project and resentment from physicians who regard him as an outsider.

He said he had met a cool reception from the Andalusian Regional Government and from Spain's National Drugs Plan.

Psychiatrist Jose Valle Cabrera has worked in conventional drug rehabilitation and knows about the Legarda treatment.

"This is not a major breakthrough, not like the invention of Penicillin for example," he said.

"Nevertheless, it is very useful in the first stage, which is detoxification. The cold turkey isn't that difficult to overcome, it normally doesn't last more than a few days — what

does take longer is the process of losing the habit."

Research by Dr. Miguel Casas of the Citran Foundation in Barcelona suggests that the mental imprint of the association of drugs with feeling good could last as long as 25 years.

"The nature of the Legarda treatment means it can also represent a first step towards losing the habit," said Dr. Cabrera, adding that other places have tried naltrexone, but not in such a compressed time frame.

In Tocina, the effects of Dr. Legarda's work are clear.

"You can certainly see the difference. Drug-related crime around here has gone down considerably," said a member of Tocina's Civil Guard.

Scientists find good use for tobacco: Growing medicines

By Lsauran Neergaard
The Associated Press

BLACKSBURG, Va. — In a sweltering greenhouse in the Appalachian Mountains, Dr. Carole Cramer fingers a fat tobacco leaf that is incubating a vital human blood protein.

Early tests suggest the leafy plant can actually grow complex medicines, from blood thinners to a possible AIDS drug. And while years of research lie ahead, Dr. Cramer predicts the day farmers set aside a little tobacco to help health.

"We're on the cusp," said the Virginia tech plant pathologist. "There are a lot of hurdles still, but there's a real opportunity here."

Tobacco is under attack

from all sides. Doctors revile its capacity to kill, the U.S. Congress is trying to ban indoor smoking and the federal Food and Drug Administration is considering regulating nicotine as a drug.

But scientists from the United States to Holland are discovering a good side to tobacco that could provide cheaper medicines and might help the small tobacco grower survive.

"Tobacco is like the white mouse of the planet," said Bob Erwin, president of Biosource Genetics, a new California company dedicated to pharmaceutical tobacco.

"You can do nearly whatever your imagination can come up with," Dr. Cramer agreed. Tobacco contains about

4,000 chemicals. Some are dangerous. Others have commercial use.

DNA Plant Technology Corp. has patented a variety that produces high levels of sclareol, which is used in place of animal musk in deodorants and aftershave.

North Carolina State University is producing Fraction-1, a protein found in all green vegetables but that tobacco produces in higher concentrations. Scientists could use the gelatin-like substance in cosmetics in as little as two years. They hope later to turn Fraction-1 into a non-allergenic infant formula or perhaps even food for kidney patients, because it is so pure that it may help them avoid dialysis.

More intriguing, tobacco

grows foreign genes so easily that it one day could do what scientists now depend on expensive bacteria systems and transgenic animals to provide: Bioengineered medicine.

Dr. Cramer took an aggressive tobacco-attacking bacteria and added to it the gene for a vital protein that keeps people from suffering serious blood clots.

She infected pieces of tobacco leaf with the bacteria, sprouted the leaf bits and in a matter of weeks had grown dozens of transgenic tobacco plants — with human blood protein growing inside their leaves.

She's now extracting that protein, purifying it and testing it to see whether the tobacco has processed it the same way

the body would. If it hasn't, the protein might not work. But if it does, doctors could get human blood proteins much more easily and cheaply.

Canadian researchers are also testing an anti-coagulant from tobacco.

Mr. Erwin infects plants with gene-altered viruses that grow drugs inside tobacco temporarily, instead of creating an entire transgenic plant.

He inserted a gene for a molecule called Alpha Trichosanthin, which is being tested as a possible anti-AIDS drug, into tobacco and produced 200 times the amount that grows in its natural cucumber plant.

And he just signed a

contract with the University of California, Irvine, to see whether tobacco can grow a new class of antibiotic called Defensin.

At N.C. State, scientists are inserting Lysozyme, a bacteria-killing enzyme from cows' stomachs, into tobacco in search of another new antibiotic.

Not only does tobacco appear to grow these drugs easily, it grows so large and so fast that scientists can get a good supply quickly, Dr. Cramer said.

And while some people question whether medicine grown in tobacco would pose a health threat, one study indicates that's not a problem. Mogen International, in

the Netherlands, fed chickens a tobacco-grown molecule and found no ill effects.

This could one day be good news for the small tobacco growers faced with a declining market. They pocket about \$1,000 per acre (\$2,500 per hectare) of tobacco, compared with only about \$60 an acre (\$150 a hectare) for corn or soybeans, so changing crops isn't a good economic choice, said N.C. State's Dr. Ray Long.

Pharmaceutical tobacco, however, should retain a high price, he said. "But we have to be candid and not oversell this idea, because any new venture is going to take time," Dr. Long

cautioned.

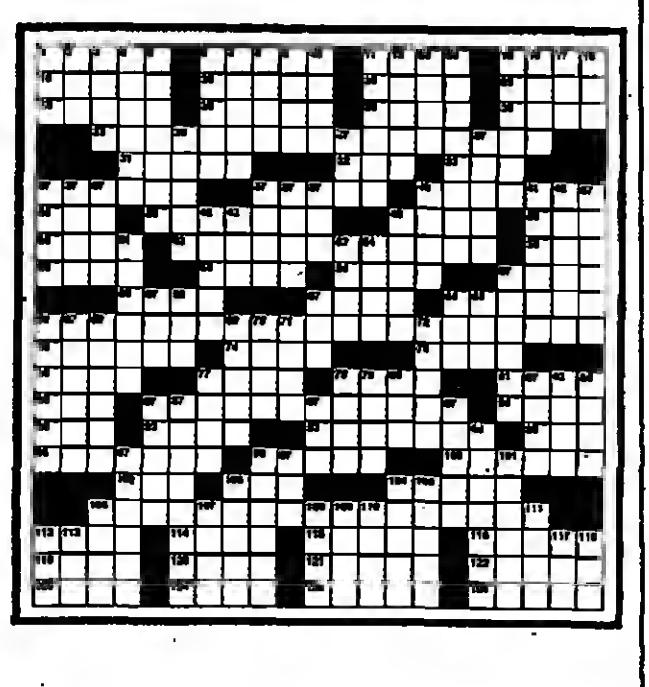
Getting government approval for new drugs takes years. Dr. Long hopes first to establish a market for new tobacco products by selling Fraction-1 and a form of Lysozyme that fights bacteria off vegetable seeds. That will take at least two years, and should help pave the way for tobacco-produced drugs, he said.

"Will medicines in tobacco ever completely fill the void for the growers? No," Dr. Cramer said. "But in the long term, maybe 10 years from now, you may see quite a large acreage of tobacco grown for medicines, enzymes to use in cosmetics, all kinds of things."

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
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Diagramless 21x21
By Frances Burton

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Russian cancer institute plagued by U.S. magazine readers

By David Ljunggren
Reuter

ST. PETERSBURG — Professor Mikhail Gershanovich, one of Russia's leading cancer specialists, thought he had more than enough problems for the time being.

Sharp cuts in state funding mean the prestigious Petrov Institute of Oncology, where he has worked for the last 33 years, cannot afford to carry out fundamental cancer research and even has problems buying vital medicines.

Could things be worse? Well, yes.

In an extraordinarily bizarre twist, the institute is being bombarded with letters, faxes and telephone calls from readers of the U.S. erotic magazine Penthouse who are convinced Mr. Gershanovich and his team have found a miracle cure for cancer.

"For me these calls are a blow because I can't do anything. We are in a very serious position. What can we do? We cannot help these patients," said Mr. Gershanovich, leafing through a pile of letters from across the globe.

Each one contains a heart-rending plea from a husband, wife, child or parent, begging for help to treat a loved relative on the verge of death.

Sadly, the Petrov team have not found a cure for any cancer, much less all of them.

Instead they are mired in a controversy in the United States over the drug Hydrazin Sulphate (HS), which helps some terminal cancer patients fend off the emaciation and weakness which often accompany the final stages of the illness.

For the last 10 years Mr. Gershanovich and his team have been carrying out tests on HS, which the U.S. authorities refuse to licence on the grounds that it is not effective enough.

One U.S. journalist and HS advocate, outraged by Washington's stance, flew to St. Petersburg this year to interview Mr. Gershanovich.

The problems started shortly afterwards.

"When I first saw the article had been printed in Penthouse I felt like dying," said Mr. Gershanovich. "We began to receive a lot of letters. He announced it was a miracle and all patients would be cured."

HS — originally a component of rocket fuel — is nothing of the sort, as Mr. Gershanovich's trials with 740 patients showed.

"We studied the drug very carefully. It is not a miracle, but it is interesting," he said, patiently pointing out as he does many times that HS can help only certain kinds of cancer.

The test results were promising — up to 25 per cent of breast cancer and Hodgkin's disease patients showed some improvement — so the Petrov Institute applied to the Russian Health Ministry for approval to market the drug.

But as in other countries, until the drug is registered, not one single HS tablet can be produced. It is a message the often desperate callers do not want to hear.

"People say 'you don't understand, this is my mother'," said Marina Buslayeva, a senior member of the Petrov Institute.

Foreign sufferers who might be helped by HS could still have some time to wait after the drug is approved in Russia, since the Petrov wants to carry out further trials here.

"To really evaluate it we need 10,000 or 20,000 patients after HS production has started," says the professor, whose team is examining how the drug might help avoid relapses after brain tumour surgery.

"We have had some very interesting results with brain tumours. But it would be premature to announce this as a cure — prolonged trials are necessary," said Mr. Gershanovich, who is not happy about the attitude of U.S. medical officials to HS.

"Their position is not right — they say if a drug

helps less than 20 per cent of patients it is ineffective. This drug is special and the common rules should not apply," he said.

"If the drug can help one in 1,000 previously incurable patients, it is of interest. This drug should be fought for," added Mr. Gershanovich, pausing to light another cigarette.

"I believe in fate. If I am to get lung cancer, I must get lung cancer," he explained with a disarming smile.

The row over HS is an unwelcome distraction in the battle to keep the Petrov above water.

The institute, founded in 1926 by oncologist Nikolai Petrov, was a leader in the anti-cancer struggle, pioneering the use of chemotherapy and surgical techniques. But economic problems triggered by the Soviet Union's collapse are taking their toll.

"At the moment we are receiving virtually no humanitarian aid — \$20,000 or \$30,000 would help us for a year. We don't need money, we need medicines," Mr. Gershanovich said.

"We've stopped asking for help. We don't want to be fed and supported. We just need a short list of medicines."

This would enable his team to continue searching for new weapons in the fight against cancer, although he dismisses talks of a miracle cure as ridiculous.

"There is no such thing as cancer — there are several hundred cancers," he said. "Tumours have become resistant. This is a very big problem... you have to be realistic about what you can expect."

"His approach is simple — people have to die of something."

"Maybe cancer is the routine terminal of life. It is so natural," said Mr. Gershanovich.

"It is not possible to expect in 100 years we will have no cancer in the world. I am a fatalist — I have seen too much."



LEADING A DIVIDED ROYAL FAMILY: Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini seems to be trying to enter the political arena as Zulu tribesmen continue to have conflicting sympathies (AFP photo)

Political row splits South Africa's Zulu royals

By Martin Bosch
Reuter

DURBAN, South Africa — The Zulu royal family is split between supporters of President Nelson Mandela and traditionalists hailing for the hearts and minds of nine million Zulus, political analysts said.

A row over an invitation for Mr. Mandela to attend celebrations for the 19th-century Zulu warrior King Shaka has revived a decade-old conflict between Mr. Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and rivals in the mainly-Zulu based Inkatha Freedom Party, sociologist Gerhard Mare said.

"It is a continuation of the conflict between the ANC and Inkatha into the New South Africa," said Mr. Mare, author of two

books on the Zulu-based Inkatha party's leader Mngosuthu Buthelezi.

The conflict between the ANC and Inkatha, the country's largest black political groupings, have killed more than 10,000 people in the Zulu heartland of KwaZulu-Natal since 1984.

Political murders decreased after historic all-race elections in April installed Mr. Mandela's government of national unity, which includes Buthelezi and Inkatha officials.

But analysts and human rights groups say the battle within the Zulu royal household could spark fresh bloodletting in the killing fields of KwaZulu-Natal.

There has been a fragile peace in KwaZulu-Natal since the elections in which Inkatha won control of the province by a razor-thin majority.

Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini is at the centre of the row. Although he professes to be apolitical, political observers say he is moving towards the ANC and out of the shadow of Mr. Buthelezi — his uncle who claims the post of traditional Zulu prime minister through ancestry.

The Zulu royals are divided along political lines between ANC sympathisers and Inkatha traditionalists, said Linda McLean, a researcher for the watchdog human rights committee.

"There have always been ANC and Inkatha princes and chiefs. It has been a conflict that has been brewing for some time between the king and Buthelezi," Mr. McLean added.

The HRC has blamed an upsurge of political violence in KwaZulu-Natal on the

controversy around the king's invitation to Mr. Mandela to attend Shaka Day festivities later this month.

At least 24 people were killed in the province in the first week of September — the highest death toll in political strife since Mr. Mandela's inauguration in May.

Inkatha officials have said that ANC attempts to woo King Zwelithini could lead to increased levels of violence.

"One just hopes that this battle royal is nipped in the bud very urgently before it is allowed to spin totally out of control," said a senior Inkatha official, who asked not to be identified.

"Any conflict between the royals... would naturally spill out. Bearing in mind that KwaZulu-Natal is such a volatile province, it does

not take very much to exacerbate the situation."

The pro-ANC royal faction was acting out of opportunism, he said, adding: "They think that by siding up to the ANC they are going to be given a better deal."

Mr. Mare said the current squabble could be traced back nearly two decades ago to when anti-Buthelezi royals wanted to oust him.

The group, which included a sister and an uncle of the king, had the support of the white-minority apartheid government in the 1970s, but now found support in the ANC, Mr. Mare added.

"It is being fought out on the terrain of tradition. It is really bizarre in a new South Africa and a democratic country," he said.

Japan bye-election result sends political ripple

By Brian Williams
Reuter

TOKYO — The Straight Cucumber Party did not do well in Japan's weekend election. That was expected.

What was not expected was that Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's candidate would lose by nearly a two-to-one margin in the first bye-election test of his 10-week-old government.

As a result, a new round of tea-leaf gazing is in full swing on where Japan's politics goes from here.

Mr. Murayama's three-party coalition would rather have come closer in the upper-house bye-election in Aichi constituency, 200-km southwest of Tokyo.

And the win by the opposition-backed candidate gives impetus to the formation of a grand new party.

The question is whether the opposition win was merely a symbolic setback or a significant blow to Mr. Murayama's ability to hold his coalition together.

The election was trumped by some analysts as the start of a new era of two-party politics because it basically involved only two candidates, one backed by the 10-party opposition and one by the Murayama coalition.

The bye-election was called when the opposition incumbent was stripped of his seat for falsifying his academic record.

The poll was considered a minor referendum on Mr. Murayama's coalition, an unlikely alliance of his Socialist Party, the pro-business Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the new party Sakigake, made up of LDP defectors.

But Aichi voters probably had a better idea of what a fringe candidate like the representative of the

Straight Cucumber Party stood for than the differences between the two main candidates.

Candidate Tsuyoshi Makino said his symbol of a straight cucumber was to highlight how conformist Japan's society had become in that shoppers would not buy a crooked cucumber.

"A society that accepts only straight cucumbers is rigid," his campaign literature said.

Mr. Makino's message found appeal with 88,000 voters, compared with 950,000 for the winning candidate, Yuzuru Tsuzuki, an American-educated former Labour Ministry official, and 550,000 for Mr. Murayama's candidate, former U.N. official Jiro Mizuno.

Even Mr. Murayama admitted that there was little to separate the policies of the two main camps.

"It was a crushing defeat," Mr. Murayama told reporters the day after the Sunday defeat.

"Our late start in campaigning is to blame. In addition, we could not spell out the differences."

Basically Japanese politics has polarised into two large conservative camps with the opposition proclaiming "responsible policies" and the coalition proclaiming "earring policies."

There is no immediate threat to the coalition because it had a majority of 30 seats in the lower house. The upper house is a ceremonial body similar to Britain's House of Lords.

The hope in the opposition camp is that the win not only will encourage unity among them but also may lead to defections from the coalition.

"With this as an impetus, we'll move ahead towards a new party," said former LDP prime minister Toshiki Kaifu, now in opposition.

Political vacuum boosts violence in Burundi

By Thalia Griffiths
Reuter

BUJUMBURA — The political vacuum in Burundi almost a year after the assassination of President Melchior Ndayaye is fanning violence which has killed scores of people in the past week, diplomats and aid workers say.

The Hutus won a crushing victory in elections last year after 30 years of domination by the minority Tutsis but real power is still in the hands of the mainly Tutsi army.

Talks between the two sides have dragged on the Central African country for months without any real progress.

On Saturday, political parties were summoned to sign an accord on the operation of government for the four-year transition period since Ndayaye's death last

October.

But the convention made no mention of the key issue — opposition demands for a vice president, to be chosen from their ranks with responsibility for defence and security, and for a council of state.

Diplomats say such demands are a bid to dilute the president's authority and make him a mere figurehead.

Delegates said the document was declared incomplete and four opposition parties refused to sign.

Burundi has the same ethnic make-up as neighbouring Rwanda which has gone through one of the worst tribal bloodlettings in history, with more than a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus massacred by militant Hutu tribesmen.

One of the biggest problems facing the negotiators is agreeing on a head of

state everyone will work with.

The main players are interim president Sylvestre Ntibunganya, a Hutu from the Frodebu Party which is now the Tutsi-dominated main opposition.

Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, toppled from the presidency by a coup in 1987, has also returned to Burundi to lead Farena, one of the more radical Tutsi parties.

Mr. Ntibunganya was appointed after the death of Cyprien Ntaryamira in a plane crash with Rwandan leader Juvenal Habyarimana in Kigali on April 6. The fatal crash triggered the Rwandan bloodletting and subsequent refugee crisis.

"None of the parties was ready to take on the democratic management of the country," said Mr. Ndayaye's former prime minister Sylvie Kinigi, who has left politics for banking.

"There is a difference between winning elections and running a country."

"We have to do everything to defuse the tension, if everyone barricades themselves into their ethnic ghetto there will be no reconciliation."

But as the political impasse continues, attacks are increasing with the hand grenade as the weapon of choice.

"No one reports deaths any more unless there are at least a dozen," said Eugene Nindorera of Burundian human rights group Iteka.

Last Sunday, at least 70 people, mostly women and children, were killed in an attack in the northeastern Muyinga province.

Mr. Nindorera said according to the accounts

be bad received, gunmen killed three people during a mass at the Catholic church and another six were hacked to death with machetes outside. He said most of the deaths happened at the market, which was attacked by men with guns and grenades.

He said the bishop's account put the blame on Tutsis from nearby camps for the displaced.

"People are being killed here almost every day now. Nobody claims responsibility for the attacks, it's just speculation from both sides and rumours," said Daniel Philippin, chief of delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Bujumbura.

"There are elements who want to create disturbances to put pressure on the political negotiators."

Three people died of in-

juries suffered in a Grenade attack on the crowded central market in Bujumbura at midday on Friday. More than 70 people were wounded.

Mr. Philippin also said about 60 people were killed last week in attacks in the northeastern Kirundu province.

The United Nations says 220,000 of Burundi's six million people are refugees and 500,000 are internally displaced, mostly from the north and central. Aid workers say the number of displaced continues to rise as attacks continue.

"There has to be a solution. We can't simply divide the country because the Hutu and Tutsi communities are too mixed but there has to be the political will and that's not present for the moment," said rights activist Nindorera.

Rich Russians spending money in neighbouring Finland

By Martyn Summerhill
Reuter

HELSINKI — Russian tourists are streaming into neighbouring Finland and, unlike during the Soviet era, they have money for goods and property — and even gambling.

Many of them have become wealthy during the transition to capitalism after seven decades of Communism and have money to spend in Finland with its ready availability of Western goods.

Retailers say Russians now sometimes walk into a small shop and buy its entire stock of articles such as cameras. Travel agents say Russians find it easier to book trips to other parts of Europe through Finland.

"We call them the new rich," said Kari Luntinen of Europe Tax Free Shopping, Finland. "We don't know where the money comes

from, but they have it."

Russians now spend more in Finland than any other tourists from outside Scandinavia, and their buying pattern is different. Tourist spending was previously dominated by Germans and Japanese.

"The Russians buy things they need in the home, practical things," Ms. Luntinen said. "They don't buy art glass, souvenirs, the things that other tourists buy."

The two countries share a 1,270-km frontier, running from close to St. Petersburg in the south to near Murmansk in the north.

Shops say Russians also buy clothing — the countries have similar climates with harsh winters.

"Some are clearly rich people but we don't know anything about their background," Ms. Luntinen said. In the first half of 1994

Russians spent \$17.9 million on tax-free goods, 65 per cent of the \$27.5 million spent by tourists from outside Scandinavia on such sales.

During the whole of 1993 they spent only \$17.7 million out of a total of \$44.2 million. Most tourists spend about \$150 a day but the Russians spent almost three times as much on average.

"They spend on television sets, kitchen equipment, household machines," said an information officer at Stockmann, a big department store in the Finnish capital.

"In the old Soviet days, they just didn't have any money to spend here at all," she said.

When the Soviet Union existed, many Russians visited Finland on study tours and trips connected with huge bilateral trade but

spent almost nothing in the shops.

A Russian identifying himself only as "Vlad" who came from near St. Petersburg some 160-km from the Finnish border said:

"It's easy to buy in Finland, just walk in and look around and buy. And it is like a little holiday to travel here. It is my own money to spend."

A casino is advertising to pull Russians to the gambling tables.

"We are giving some of the staff language courses in Russian too. There has been a big change since late last year and now the Russians come third among the number of foreigners after the Americans and the Japanese," said a casino manager.

"They contain some big players as well as ordinary ones, like other groups of foreigners. Where their

money comes from and what they are doing here I don't know. But you must have noticed there are well-dressed Russians in the streets now, not like in the old days," he said.

Some Russians are also buying real estate, partly a result of the easing of Finnish laws on property-owning by foreigners.

Earlier this century, before Finland broke away from Russia in 1917, many Russians had permanent or holiday homes in Finland, including residences owned by the tsar.

"Russians who now work in Finland all or part of their time buy houses for their families to live in," said Heikki Heikkonen, who works in a Helsinki real estate journal.

"They usually buy the same kind of houses as ordinary Finnish people have but they do like to buy

in good areas," he said, mentioning fashionable parts of Helsinki.

"Some of them travel to work from places like St. Petersburg and have bought houses near the border," he said.

"They just walk in and ask the price and pay cash. They get the money through the banks here, that's all we know about it."

Helsinki is linked by a daily train service to St. Petersburg and Moscow and by long-distance buses.

The tourist information office said Russian tourists spent 207,148 nights in hotels in Finland last year and the figure for the first quarter of 1994 was 98 per cent up on that for the same period last year.

Most still come to Helsinki, by bus, train or plane but a rising number are coming over the border in their own car.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 13/9/94	Tokyo Close 14/9/94
Sterling Pound	1.5640	1.5655
Deutsche Mark	1.5433	1.5383
Swiss Franc	1.2855	1.2820
French Franc	5.2775	5.2685**
Japanese Yen	98.84	98.53
European Currency Unit	1.2360	1.2382**

USD Per STG
* European Options at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 14/9/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
Sterling Pound	4.62	4.75	5.12	5.68
Deutsche Mark	5.25	5.50	5.87	6.81
Swiss Franc	4.75	4.75	4.95	4.31
French Franc	3.75	3.87	4.12	4.50
Japanese Yen	5.31	5.46	5.81	6.31
European Currency Unit	7.37	7.12	7.25	7.50

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 14/9/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6950	0.6970
Sterling Pound	1.0873	1.0927
Deutsche Mark	0.4510	0.4533
Swiss Franc	0.5419	0.5446
French Franc	0.1319	0.1326
Japanese Yen*	0.7053	0.7088
Dutch Guilder	0.4024	0.4044
Swedish Krona	0.0445	0.0447
Italian Lira*	0.0000	0.0000

Other Currencies Date: 14/9/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8270	1.8400
Lebanese Lira*	0.040700	0.041930
Saudi Riyal	0.18503	0.18600
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.3150	0.3480
Qatari Riyal	0.1897	0.1909
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7860	1.8100
UAE Dirham	0.1886	0.1896
Greek Drachma*	0.0000	0.0190
Cypriot Pound	1.4125	1.6050

France announces partial privatisation of Renault

PARIS (R) — France's conservative government, setting its sights on the country's last bastion of trade union power, announced Tuesday that it was to partially privatise car maker Renault.

Economy Minister Edmond Alphandery told reporters the state, which controls 79 per cent of Regie Nationale des Usines Renault, would sell 28 per cent by the end of the year.

Swedish car maker A.B. Volvo, which pulled out of a planned merger with Renault last December, is also to sell eight per cent of the French firm immediately and possibly up to 12 per cent altogether from its current 20 per cent stake.

Volvo's and the state's shares in Renault will be sold together.

The Renault flotation is the fifth major sale since the government of Prime Minister Edouard Balladur came to power last year vowing to return France's big public

sector companies to private hands.

It is also the most controversial, touching a company which is seen to be at the heart of French industry and a part of the national heritage.

The carmaker's biggest trade union, the communist-led CGT, has vowed to take action against the privatisation, although it has not specified what form this will take.

However, the government appears to have sidestepped most opposition, from left-wing politicians and trade unionists alike, by pledging to retain 51 per cent of the car maker.

Mr. Balladur has suggested a further stake could be sold if Renault were to find a new marriage partner to replace Volvo, which jilted the French company after a boardroom coup.

Renault will also make a two billion franc (\$380 million) capital increase to coincide with the privatisation.

More Jordanian banks plan operations in W. Bank, Gaza

AMMAN (AP) — Three Jordanian banks Wednesday announced plans to start operations in the Israeli-occupied territories and the autonomous Palestinian areas.

Al Ahli Bank, which shut branches in the occupied West Bank during the 1967 Middle East war, said it will resume operations in Nablus, Ramallah, Hebron and Bethlehem before the end of the year.

The Jordan Kuwait and the Palestine Investment banks, which did not operate in the territories before 1967, said they planned to inaugurate offices in the West Bank and

the self-rule areas at the beginning of 1995.

The inauguration of new banks in the territories and the autonomous Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho is the second phase of a banking agreement signed this year by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The first phase of the April accord gave priority to banks and financial institutions that operated in the West Bank and Gaza Strip before 1967.

That accord was preceded by a Jordan-PLO economic agreement, which gave the Kingdom a strong say in the economic affairs of the territories and the self-rule zones.

Subsequently, at least five Jordanian banks resumed operations after a 27-year hiatus.

Eight Jordanian banks with 31 branches operated before the 1967 war in the West Bank, which the Kingdom ruled from 1950 until Israel seized it.

Executives of the Jordan Kuwait and the Palestine Investment banks said they did not yet obtain Israeli permission to begin operations.

Jomaa Al Sharif, deputy director-general of Jordan Kuwait Bank, said a branch in Ramallah will be inaugurated first. Activities later would be expanded to Nablus, Gaza and Hebron.

He said the bank, established in 1976 with a capital of \$15 million, will begin operations in Ramallah in early 1995.

Saeed Bideiri, deputy general manager of a Jordanian offshoot of the Palestine Investment Bank, said offices in Gaza and Jericho will be launched in January 1995.

"We will then expand operations to other Palestinian territories with the expansion of Palestinian self-rule," said Mr. Bideiri, a senior executive at the Jordan Arab Investment Bank.

He said the Palestine Investment Bank will have a capital of \$15 million.

Shell, Deminex get new oil concessions in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — The Dutch company Shell and Germany's Deminex have expanded their oil operations in Syria by signing a contract to explore in the northeast of the country, oil industry sources said Tuesday.

A geological and geophysical survey will start soon in an area covering more than 350 square kilometres of the Euphrates River basin, the sources said.

They said the contract sets

up a new company owned 50 per cent by the Syrian Petroleum Company, 33.3 per cent by Shell and 16.7 per cent by Deminex.

Parts of the contract area, which extends from the Iraqi border west across the Euphrates, were abandoned by British Petroleum and Total, the sources said.

According to the new contract the new company should spend at least \$10 million on exploration in a

36-month period which could be extended twice for 30 months each time.

If oil is discovered a firm called Al Walid Oil Company will be established and the responsible for production and development for 25 years from the start of commercial production, with a possible extension of five years.

Its oil exports will be exempt from taxes and customs duties.

Syria, a member of OPEC, the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, produces around 580,000 barrels per day of crude of which around 320,000 are exported.

Shell and Deminex are already shareholders in the Furat Oil Company which produces 400,000 barrels per day of light crude from fields around the city of Dayr Azzawr, some 370 kilometres from Damascus.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	Canadian dollar
1.3482/92	Deutschemark
1.5381/91	Dutch guilder
1.7253/63	Swiss franc
1.2810/20	Belgian franc
31.65/69	French franc
5.2625/75	Italian lire
1561.42/9	Japanese yen
98.52/62	Swedish crown
7.5075/75	Norwegian crown
6.7564/14	Danish crown
6.0766/16	
1.5654/64	
One sterling	
One ounce of gold	\$390.40/390.80

Judge sentences former U.S. treasurer to prison

WASHINGTON (R) — Catalina Villalpando, whose signature as U.S. treasurer once appeared on every dollar bill, was sentenced Tuesday to four months in prison for conspiracy, tax evasion and obstructing justice.

Ms. Villalpando admitted that she underreported her taxable income in 1989 by

about \$167,000, cheating the U.S. government out of more than \$47,000.

U.S. district judge Thomas Hogan rejected pleas by a fearful Villalpando, who was treasurer from 1989 to 1992 and one of the highest-ranking Hispanics under former president George Bush, that she be spared a prison term.

The judge said the sentence would "remind all those who serve in high office" that they are "not beyond the law."

He also placed Ms. Villalpando, 54, on three years' probation. During that time, she must spend the first four months in home detention and perform 200 hours of community service.

Judge Hogan described Ms. Villalpando as "a woman who has had a remarkable advancement in her life," rising to the highest levels of the government only to face the embarrassment and humiliation of three felony convictions.

He said Ms. Villalpando, who had worked in the Reagan White House as a liaison to the Hispanic community, had a "special burden to obey the law" because of her high government post.

Judge Hogan said she had become accustomed to a lavish lifestyle, including a \$50,000 Jaguar car, that apparently caused her to break the law.

As part of her duties at the Treasury Department, Ms. Villalpando ran the U.S. mint, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the U.S. savings bonds division.

She took a leave of absence from her post after the FBI in October 1992 raided Ms. Villalpando's home and an Atlanta telecommunications firm, Communications International Inc., where she had previously worked.

Ms. Villalpando has admitted filing false statements to the Treasury Department, the Office of Government Ethics and the Senate Finance Committee to conceal substantial funds she still received from her former firm in 1989 and 1990.

The value of what she received exceeded \$150,000 at a time when she had an annual government salary of \$112,300.

Ms. Villalpando pleaded for leniency, asking the judge to allow her to perform community service instead of going to jail. "It is a very difficult period for me," she said, starting to cry. "I caused my family a lot of harm."

Ms. Villalpando, who actively campaigned for Mr. Bush among Hispanics, could have received a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison and a \$750,000 fine.

Judge Hogan said he would not impose any fines, noting she would be burdened by a large debt for the rest of her life in paying the owed taxes and interest.

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Water 'torture' brought China's swimming success

HONG KONG (AFP) — China's women swimmers went through "torture" to reach their pre-eminence in the pool, according to the country's first Olympic swimming champion who rejected accusations of drug-taking.

Zhuang Young told the Hong Kong Standard newspaper the swimmers reached the top on a diet of herbs, training 364 days a year and keeping away from boys. Before competition, she said, the squad was put through special mountain training she described as "real torture" because the air was so thin the women could "only just manage to breathe."

China has borne the brunt of increasing suspicions of drug taking by international swimmers. China's women's squad accounted for five of the 10 world records broken at last week's world championships in Rome. The squad won all but four of the women's titles.

But Zhuang, who won a gold at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992, jumped to the defence of the squad she now helps train.

She said China had spent 20 years preparing for the current domination of the pool.

"Our success is absolutely not from drugs but through the hard work of the coaches and swimmers," said Zhuang, 22, who retired after winning her title and is now an assistant to national coach

Zhou Ming.

"Anyone who knows how we international train would be totally convinced of our achievements."

Zhuang said the swimmers chosen for the national squad trained every day of the year except the Lunar New Year's Day. "Every day we had to train six hours in the pool and two hours in the gym," she was quoted as saying.

"We had no television, no entertainment, no dating, no home visits during our years of training," said the swimming star from Shanghai who was groomed for international competition after winning several regional titles.

"We trained night and day just for one objective: Perfect performance. That was the whole meaning of life at that time."

Zhuang said her silver medal in the 100 metre freestyle in the 1988 Seoul Olympics was a signal to the world of China's rising status. "But few paid any attention to us."

"When I won the first gold in the Olympics in '92 they said I was helped by drugs. They didn't know I had prepared for that moment for six years."

Zhuang emphatically denied that drugs were involved in her preparation.

She said the swimmers' food had Chinese herbs and medicine mixed in it "to better our body quality."

"Westerners won't believe



The Chinese 4x100m medley relay team with (from right) Dai Guobang, He Cihong, Le Jingyi and Liu Linlin display their gold medals after setting a new

world record with 4:01.67 min, September 10 (AFP photo)

this but we have had practical experience for more than 2,000 years."

Zhuang became so strong from the army-style training that she surprised male athletes on a visit to Hong Kong by lifting 230 pounds (104.5 kilos).

"Quite often we had to put on clothes, trousers and shoes to swim," she said.

"We had to struggle really hard to survive in the water with all that gear on."

"But once we had got rid of it we could swim like fish in competitions."

Chinese coaches developed their own tricks to boost the women's strength.

They would cut up bicycle inner tubes and tie one end to the poolside and the other to

the swimmer's waist, Zhuang explained.

The women had to swim away from the tyres. "It was very tiring for the body but also very good for the explosive power build-up."

Before competitions, the squad was taken to high altitude training in Kunming, 2,300 metres above sea level. "It was real torture," said

Zhuang, "with air so you can only just manage to breathe."

"And yet we had to undergo the same intensive training which made us suffocate all the time."

Zhuang's opinion of those who suspect China of using drugs was clear. "Anyone who says China emerged all of a sudden is ignorant."

Boxer McCall walks out after suspender belt insult

LONDON (R) — American challenger Oliver McCall walked out of a news conference Wednesday promoting his WBC world heavyweight title fight against Lennox Lewis after having a suspender belt thrown at him by Lewis's trainer, Pepe Correa.

In what looked like a cheap publicity stunt, Correa leapt to his feet as sparring partner Tony Tucker insisted that McCall had a chance if he was able to rough up the champion on the inside.

He then threw a red suspender belt at the challenger and told him: "This is the

only belt you are going to get."

McCall and his entourage walked out and Correa's behaviour attracted scathing criticism from London promoter Frank Warren.

Warren, acting on behalf of McCall's manager, Don King said: "Correa is a piece of garbage. If they were wanting to sell tickets for the show this sort of nonsense won't help at all."

"There was no purpose in it, McCall came here prepared to talk about the fight and conducted himself as a gentleman. He made his deci-

sion calmly and left."

"If it was a cheap publicity stunt it was nothing to do with us. Lennox Lewis is a nice bloke but he doesn't need people like this on board with him."

Frank Maloney, Lewis's manager, commented: "Nothing violent took place and it hasn't done any harm to boxing."

"I was as surprised as everyone else that it happened. McCall looks a very uncomfortable man."

Lewis and McCall meet at Wembley arena in the early hours of Sunday, Sept. 25.

NBA recommends shortening 3-point shot

CHICAGO (AP) — The NBA's competition committee Tuesday recommended shortening the 3-point shot by making the line a uniform 22 feet (6.9 metres) from the basket, a move to increase scoring and ease congestion in the lane.

The line is currently 23 feet in the corners and extends to 23 feet, 9 inches (7.3 metres) at the top of the key. By shortening the distance, Rod Thorn, the NBA's vice president of operations, said teams will be forced to play more defence on the outside.

"It is significant when you move the 3-point line even though it is only a foot and nine inches," Thorn said after a four-hour meeting.

"I think we will have a little more offence and a little less congestion on the court. It will be somewhat easier for players to move. Therefore we project we will have a little more offence. The 3-point line will be more inviting and you will have to guard people out there."

Thorn said the vote to shorten the line was not quite unanimous. But he said there were few dissenters.

"I think their basic premise

was that we've had the line for a long time and it has served us well. Maybe it's a little too easy from 22 feet," Thorn said.

"I think you are going to have people who can shoot. Our shooting percentages have been going down and with this shorter line you are going to see more taken and more made," Thorn said. "In international basketball you have to guard the line and it can lessen the congestion in the lane."

The 3-point shot was adopted in the NBA for the 1979-80 season.

The committee, comprised of a representative from each of the 27 teams, also recommended that a shooter fouled on a 3-point shot be awarded three free throws instead of two.

Those rule changes must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the NBA's board of governors at a meeting next month, and Thorn said the expected them to pass.

Other recommended rule changes include changing the "clear path" foul rules in contact in the backcourt so a player who is breaking up court can't be grabbed; re-

quiring that the second or more of back-to-back timeouts where the ball has not yet been inbounded be limited to no more than 45 seconds; ejecting any player who commits two unnecessary-contact fouls during one game.

A recommendation to enlarge or change the shape of the foul line was tabled so it could be studied more thoroughly, said Thorn.

The league also will implement several measures to address fighting and physical play, including a one-game suspension and maximum \$20,000 fine for any player who leaves the bench during an altercation.

These measures, which do not require approval of the board of governors, will be effective with preseason play this season.

Technical foul fine amounts will be increased to \$500. The current fine is \$100 for the first in a game and \$150 for the second.

A tough return to Brazil for Lazaroni

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Sebastiao Lazaroni, who led Brazil's failed attempt to win the 1990 World Cup, is having a tough time in his first job back home since the Italian debacle.

In charge of Rio de Janeiro club Vasco da Gama for two months, Lazaroni has already heard the fans' chants of "idiot, idiot" ringing in his ears and has also suffered stinging media criticism of his tactics.

The story may have a familiar ring for Lazaroni, condemned four years ago as the man tried to take the magic out of Brazilian soccer.

Lazaroni was pilloried and ridiculed from all sides after Brazil were eliminated by Argentina in the second round of the World Cup.

It was the team's lack of style — scoring just four goals in four games and playing with a European-style sweeper system — which angered Brazilians as much as the results.

On the squad's return to Rio, Lazaroni shipped out of a back door at no airport to avoid hostile fans and locked himself in his apartment for a week. When he emerged, he said he had been made to feel like "a criminal delinquent."

Since then Lazaroni has, perhaps wisely, stayed abroad, working first in Italy with Fiorentina and Bari and

then in Mexico with Leon. Lazaroni, who also annoys the media with his long-winded answers to their questions and whose manner of speaking had been dubbed "Lazaronesque," finally returned to Vasco after Brazil won the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

But it has not been a happy comeback. Vasco da Gama were quickly dumped out of the Brazil Cup, a knockout competition which offers the winners a place in the following year's South American Cup.

In the Brazilian championship, they have been more successful and have already guaranteed their passage into the second stage competition. But they have scored only nine goals in the process and performances have suggested they will not go much further.

Several players have already been quoted as criticising the team's tactics after Sunday's 0-0 home draw with Santos, condemned by many as the worst match of the championship so far.

In an earlier game, Vasco fans congregated around the tunnel and chanted "idiot, idiot" at Lazaroni.

Two rounds of matches are left in the first round, from which the top four teams in each of four six-team groups qualify for the next round.

NFL players to split \$30 million settlement

WASHINGTON (AP) — About 1,300 American National Football League (NFL) players soon will share \$30 million in pay lost when club owners barred them from games after the 1987 strike.

The National Labour Relations Board (NLRB) said the back pay settlement between the NFL Players Association and the NFL Management Council was the largest in the agency's 59-year history. It also includes lost bonuses and interest.

The award, which the owners of the 28 teams had put into a trust in January 1993 as part of an antitrust settlement, had been held up by several court challenges. Both current and retired players who participated in the 1987 season will share the money.

"We are very pleased that the players who risked their jobs and sacrificed their salaries during the 1987 NFL players' strike will be receiv-

ing \$30 million in back pay, bonuses and interest," Gene Upshaw, the union's executive director, said.

The NLRB said the checks for lost games will range between \$3,000 and \$100,000 per player, plus interest. Amounts due by team range from \$917,959 by the Chicago Bears to \$336,687 by the Cardinals.

The management council attempted to play down the settlement, saying the award "was part of the \$195 million overall settlement that the NFL reached with its players union in January 1993."

"The NLRB never officially recognised the settlement," NFL spokesman Joe Browne said. "Now it's sprinkling holy water on it."

But NLRB spokesman David B. Parker said "the settlement discussions have been ongoing... there have been stages of settlement."

The settlement resulted from an NLRB decision that the council and NFL teams had unlawfully refused to allow returning players to participate in games immediately after the strike Oct. 15.

The board found that the denial of the returning strikers the right to play or be paid, as well as other acts by league management such as withholding game checks for certain injured reserve players, constituted unfair labour practices in violation of the national Labour Relations Act," Feinstein said in a statement.

The strike began Sept. 22 after the players association and management council were unable to agree on several issues, including free agency, which would allow players to sell their services to the highest bidder at the end of their current contracts.

Top seeds advance at Forte Grand tournament

AMMAN (J.T.) — Top seeds Bihah Shehadeh and Tae In Lee Wednesday moved into the semifinals of the Forte Grand TNT tennis tournament by eliminating tough opponents and playing to their true form.

Bihah Shehadeh took out Terry Zimmermann 6-2, 6-1 in a match that upset the form books but saw a near flawless game by Shehadeh.

No. 2 seed Tae In Lee took out Richard Lewis in the second round final of the day. Spectators hailed a brave effort by Lewis and a devastating performance by the second seed.

The no. 1 ladies double seeds Otsuka and Enaki outwitted Diana Annab and Helen Kawar in another match that proved the high quality of women's tennis at the championship.

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hereby invite local and international suppliers of educational equipment in subject being taught in the faculty of education of each one of these three Universities to apply for bidding documents and to submit tenders (bids) for the equipment and furniture to be provided to the various laboratories, workshops and classrooms of the Faculties of Education about to be completed in the campus of each one of the respective Universities.

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect the Bidding Documents for each of the three Universities: (1) at the University of Jordan in Amman, (2) at the liaison office of Yarmouk University located at the Higher Council for Science and Technology building inside the campus of the Royal Scientific Society, (3) at the liaison office of Mu'tah University located at Samir Rifai St.-Jabal Amman between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday to Wednesday from September 14, 1994 to Oct. 5, 1994.

4. A complete set of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from the above referred offices on submission of a written application and upon payment of a non-refundable fee. All payments will be by a Bank draft or certified bank check in currency of the purchaser's choice or in cash made out in favour of the respective University. Price of purchasing the documents would be the equivalent of the Jordan Dinar as follows:

- For Delivery to personal callers JD 15,000 per Lot.
- For Delivery by local Mail to Local Bidders JD 25,000 per lot.
- For Delivery to Overseas Bidders by Courier Service JD 25,000 per Lot plus JD 50 for all Lots.

Bids will be priced and submitted separately for each individual Lot to each respective University. Contracts will be awarded for a Lot (by/Lot) basis to the lowest evaluated bidders who would prove capable to carry out the requirements of the contracts to be signed. Bidders could be awarded more than one Contract of each.

Closing date for the bid submission will be noon of Wednesday, Nov. 2, 1994. Bids shall have a validity of 90 days and will be accompanied issued by The University of Jordan, Yarmouk University and Mu'tah University by a bid security to the value of about 3% of the Bid Price and of duration of 120 days.

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The University of Jordan, McGill University and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) are hosting a free training course in the "Biotechnology of Fermentation" which provides training for participants from the food beverage, pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, will be held in the period 8th to 15th of October from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Interested trainees are encouraged to contact Dr. Malik Haddadin for preliminary registration at phone: 843555, Ext. 2676 Fax No.: 833059



McGill University
Montreal, Canada



University of Jordan
Faculty of Agriculture

Training Course on Poultry Biotechnology

The University of Jordan, McGill University and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) are hosting a free training course in the "Poultry Biotechnology" which provides training for participants from the poultry sector, will be held in the period 25th to 26th of October from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Interested trainees are encouraged to contact Dr. Malik Haddadin or Dr. Shakib Abdulrahim for preliminary registration at phone: 843555, Ext. 2676 Fax No.: 833059

Japan pardon Ahmad over T

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese Olympic Committee Wednesday pardoned Ahmad Al-Sayid, a Syrian athlete who was suspended for doping after failing a test at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

The Japanese Olympic Committee said it had decided to pardon Al-Sayid, who had been suspended for doping after failing a test at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. The committee said it had decided to pardon Al-Sayid, who had been suspended for doping after failing a test at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

NEWS IN B

FIFA chief to miss Asian Cup

TOKYO (AFP) — FIFA President Joao Havelange will miss the Asian Cup in Japan because of a scheduling conflict.

Leonardo suffers knee injury

TOKYO (AFP) — Leonardo, a Brazilian player, suffered a knee injury during a match and is expected to miss several games.

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Japan pardons Sheikh Ahmad over Taiwan

TOKYO (AFP) — The Japanese Olympic Committee on Wednesday backed down from threats to withdraw support for Asian sport supremo Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad for inviting Taiwan's president to the Asian Games.

Japan's National Olympic Committee President Hiro-nishin Furuhashi said "the situation is moving toward a settlement."

Furuhashi said the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) decision to bar "political figures" from the Asian Games next month in Hiroshima had eased tension. "We will not call him (Sheikh Ahmad) to account unless the situation is strained further," Furuhashi told a news conference.

Furuhashi suggested Tuesday that Japan might not support Sheikh Ahmad's re-

election to the presidency of the OCA because of the invitation he sent to President Lee Teng-Hui. The national committee's executive board decided Wednesday though not to press ahead with the threat.

The Kuwaiti sheikh's invitation drew protests from Beijing and the threat of a Chinese boycott.

Furuhashi and other Japanese sport leaders lobbied for a solution to the stalemate during the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Congress in Paris last month. Press reports said this led to the OCA statement banning "political figures."

The statement effectively revoked the invitation to Lee even though Taiwan officials insist his planned visit will go ahead.



Three weeks rest for Graf

ESSEN, Germany (AFP) — World number one Steffi Graf has been told by a specialist to rest her injured back for three weeks, her father, Peter, announced here Wednesday.

After losing to Spain's

Aranza Sanchez Vicario in the U.S. Open final in New York at the week-end, Graf headed straight here to consult sports medicine specialist Professor Hartmut Krah, who examined her Tuesday.

Graf was in considerable discomfort during Sunday's final and required treatment during a changeover in the second set.

She eventually lost 1-6, 7-6, 6-4.

Victory for Jansher but fury for Parke

BARCELONA (AFP) — Jansher Khan opened the defence of his World Open squash tournament title with an easy victory on Wednesday, but there was a controversial passage to the second round for England's Simon Parke.

Jansher's 15-7, 15-6, 15-9 win over Australian qualifier Craig Rowland was effortless, and an ideal start to his campaign for a record-equaling sixth world title.

"I am feeling strong," said the Pakistan star, adding that his weekend defeat to England's Peter Marshall at the European Clubs Championship in Paris was due to tiredness from travel.

"I've rested for a couple of days, and I feel good now," he said.

Jansher now faces England's Philip Whitlock, a straight games winner over South African qualifier Craig Wapnick.

Unlike Jansher's comfortable win, there was swearing and fury as Parke, the usually mild-mannered Yorkshireman, blew his top with Dutch referee Meinoud Kreschier during his victory over compatriot Del Harris.

Leading two games to love

and having rallied superbly from 8-14 down to 14-14 for game point in the third, Parke went for a winning drop shot which just nicked the tin. Both men walked off the court without speaking.

But referee Kreschier saw the ball as good and went over to tell Parke as much.

"He must have wondered why he hadn't shaken hands," Parke vented afterwards. "It was so obvious to both players, but we had to tell the referee what was going on, which defies the object."

A true sportsman, Parke insisted his ball was down and conceded the game.

But the sparks flew minutes later when both men agreed that Parke had won an opening point in the fourth, only for the referee to insist on a let. The Dutchman's explanation for his apparent inconsistency was that he couldn't have ruled a let for the winning point of the previous game as both men had already left the court.

New Zealand veteran Ross Norman, seeded eighth here, was glad to have come through his first match with a 15-12, 11-10, 15-11 victory over England's Paul Johnson despite the exhaustion setting in towards the end of the game.

"I'm lacking match practice, and match fitness," said the 35-year-old. "You can train as much as you like but you can't simulate a match, with the referee and the crowd."

After easing through the first two games, Norman came a cropper towards the end of the third.

"I got tired at 11-11, really tired," he admitted. "I tried to keep pushing but he put in a couple of quick shots and took the game. It seemed like it had taken 20 minutes to get there and then he wrapped it up in a minute."

But the Kiwi got his revenge in a final game which lasted barely seven minutes as he put together a barrage of winning shots.

"I didn't hit any winners, and he didn't hit any winners," said the oldest man of the circuit.

Norman, whose career peaked in 1986 when he ended Jahangir Khan's five-year unbeaten run in the World Open final, now faces either Australian Anthony Hill or Mark Cairns of England.

UEFA CUP

Blackburn shocked by Swedish part-timers

LONDON (AP) — Kenny Dalglish's long awaited debut as a manager in European competition had a disastrous outcome when his fancied Blackburn Rovers suffered a shock 1-0 loss at home to a team of Swedish part-timers in the UEFA Cup first round Tuesday.

Real Madrid beat its Iberian neighbour Sporting Lisbon 1-0 in their first leg match, while a Robert Lee hat-trick led Newcastle on a successful return to Europe after 17 years with a dazzling 5-0 demolition of Royal Antwerp.

Tuesday's first leg featured four hat-tricks with Kalma Kova netting three for Hon-

ved Budapest in its 4-1 win over Twente Enschede of the Netherlands. The 5-4 goalfest between Bayer Leverkusen and Dutch team PSV Eindhoven saw two hat-tricks, with Ulf Kirsten on target for the German winners and Brazilian World Cup player Ronaldo for the losers.

Blackburn was expected to make easy work of Trelleborgs at home, but the Swedes, made up of a truck driver, pest controller, auditor and several students among their ranks, frustrated the extravagantly paid professionals from England.

Strong defence by Christian Karlsson and excellent goalkeeping by Trelleborgs'

Polish international goalkeeper Ryszard Jankowski, the only full-time player in the squad, kept out Blackburn's £9 million (£13.5 million) striking pair of Chris Sutton and Alan Shearer.

Student Frederik Sandell completed the frustration in the 71st minute when he took a pass on a breakaway from Ola Severin to leave Blackburn goalkeeper Tim Flowers floundering.

Dalglish turned Blackburn into a force in the English Premier League and its first venture into Europe was a reward, but he will have to work hard if it is to progress beyond the first round after the return match at Trelle-

borgs' tiny 10,000 capacity ground Sept. 27.

Martin Vazquez scored Madrid's winner in the 11th minute when his low shot from 20 metres slipped through the fingers of Sporting goalkeeper Zoran Lemajic.

Real Madrid came out fast in the first half and dominated play, but roles were reversed in the second half.

Sporting's Polish player Andrei Juszkowiak had two chances to equalise late in the game, but was thwarted by

goalkeeper Paco Buyo in the 67th minute and soon after hit the crossbar.

Lee exemplified the class which has put Newcastle on top of the English Premier League with five wins from as many matches.

The England forward ensured Newcastle's average of four goals a game was maintained, hitting the opener inside the first minute and following up on the 9th and 55th minutes.

Scott Sellars scored in the 39th minute and Steve Watson, who came on as a substi-

tute for captain Peter Beardsley in an unexpected early return after fracturing a cheekbone three weeks ago, completed the thrashing in 10 minutes from three.

Italian clubs had an unhappy start, with Lazio being held to a 0-0 away draw with Dynamo Minsk of Russia and Csk. Sofia of Bulgaria beating Juventus Turin 2-0 in Sofia.

In the only Cup Winners' Cup match Tuesday, Werder Bremen and Maccabi Tel Aviv drew 0-0.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMMAM HIRSH
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WHERE'S THE NINTH TRICK?

Both vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH

♠ 7 6

♥ Q J 9 6 2

♦ J 10 8 2

WEST EAST

♠ A 7 3 2 ♠ 10 6 5 4

♥ K 5 4 ♥ A 10 8 2

♦ 7 ♦ A 5 3

♣ 7 6 4 ♣ K 9

SOUTH

♠ A 9

♥ A Q 3

♦ K 10 8 4

♣ A 5 3

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠

Before consulting yourself:

line of play, go over the entire cam-

paign. Make sure the method of at-

tack you have selected produces the

required number of tricks. If it

looks for refinement that will.

North-South were using a 15-17

range for an opening bid of one no

trump. Since North quite likely had

five diamonds for the invitational

raise and, therefore, a 2-3 of

tricks was available, South selected the aggressive rebid of three no trump. Not that it mattered: North would have raised an invitational two no trump to game.

West led the fourth-best spade and the play was soon over. Declarer won in dummy and immediately led a diamond. East shot up with the ace and reverted to spades. The jack lost to the queen and the ace of spades was forced out. Declarer had only eight tricks and, when the heart finesse failed, the defenders collected five—three spades and one in each red suit.

Had declarer counted tricks before embarking on this plan, the predicament would have been obvious. Just one minor adjustment to all that was needed to ensure a score.

At trick two declarer should have taken the heart finesse. If it wins, declarer can switch to diamonds and only a 4-0 break would threaten the contract. Should it lose, the spade position is safe from attack and a second heart trick has been established. Declarer can win any return force out the ace of diamonds and come to nine tricks.

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Go for the bulls-eye! Wednesday night is Darts Night. Remember to concentrate and aim right when you throw those darts, and you'll get your prize on the spot!

SUNDAY

Bring out the Michael Jordan in you, shoot that ball and score for more! Sunday nights are reserved for basketball. Just get 8 out of 10 balls into the basket, and a drink is on the house!

TUESDAY

Members, beware! Your IQ is put to the test on Quiz Night every Tuesday. From world records, baffling averages to spectacular defeats, get ready to answer all kinds of trivia. The winner goes home with a prize!

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هنا من الأول

Qouriea: Self-rule regime inefficient

Arab League appeals for funds

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Palestinian self-rule government is muddled in its economic policies and has failed to introduce badly needed changes, Yasser Arafat's economic minister charged Wednesday. "Absolutely nothing has been achieved on the ground so far...the Palestinian administration did not take concrete steps to make Palestinian citizens feel the change," said the minister Ahmad Qouriea, an architect of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord on self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Palestinian sources close to Mr. Qouriea said the main problem was that Mr. Arafat insisted on making all decisions himself, including personally granting approval for any investment project.

Mr. Qouriea did not refer to Mr. Arafat directly, but told Israel Radio Wednesday that business people were reluctant to invest because of a lack of proper planning.

"I am afraid that the private sector has gone shy, not taking risks of investing without bylaws and regulations, without approved economic plans," he said.

Such investment is badly needed, he said, because unemployment in the West Bank and Gaza stands at about 54 per cent.

Mr. Qouriea also complained of confusion and inefficiency in the PLO-run economic organisations, including the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR) that serves as a conduit for the international aid.

"Even PECDAR, which is the most important economic organisation, is staggering between different mandates and contradictory instructions," Mr. Qouriea told the radio.

Mr. Qouriea reportedly has been excluded recently from key decisions on economic policy. Palestinian sources said Mr. Qouriea had put together a delegation for last week's negotiations with donor countries in Paris, but a different group was then picked by Mr. Arafat for the talks.

Arafat loyalists consider Mr. Qouriea a puppet of the World Bank because the economic minister agrees with international demands that the Palestinians must set up an accounting system before international aid is banded over.

Mr. Arafat, who likes to control the flow of money himself, recently dismissed demands for such an accounting system as an "incorrect

slogan."

Arab League appeal

In Cairo, Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid urged member states Wednesday to help fund Palestinian self-rule, at the opening of a foreign ministers' meeting in the Egyptian capital.

A financial commitment was "necessary to allow a global programme to be launched capable of promoting the required development in the autonomous territories," said Dr. Abdul Meguid.

"Arab development funds and inter-Arab economic organisations are called upon to take a greater interest" in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, he added.

The Palestinian National Authority and Mr. Arafat have complained that funds pledged by the international community to back self-rule have been withheld, endangering the smooth running of autonomy launched on May 4.

The issue of Arab support for the fledgling self-rule was at the top of the agenda for the two-day meeting, said Kamal, deputy secretary general for Palestinian affairs, told AFP.

Kaddoumi slams deal

A senior PLO official on Wednesday slammed the Israel-PLO Declaration of Principles signed a year ago saying it had virtually failed to achieve anything positive.

Faruq Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, said the accord signed on Sept. 13, 1993 in Washington "has not produced any positive result, except that the brothers (Palestinians) have returned home."

"The Israeli transgression and mentality have not changed," he added.

Mr. Kaddoumi was speaking at a news conference as head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab League foreign ministers' meeting.

He urged Arab states to continue their boycott of Israel until all occupied Arab territory was liberated, but the issue was not expected to be discussed at the Cairo meeting.

Faisal Hussein, a leading Palestinian official in the occupied territories, also accused Israel of "trying to delay implementation of the autonomy accord," which launched self-rule in Gaza and Jericho in May.

He said Israel was holding up elections to an autonomy council, which will steer self-rule in the autonomous Gaza Strip and the West Bank, where Israel has begun transferring civilian powers to the Palestinians.



CHASED OUT: A man suspected of robbery is chased out of the Kibumba refugee camp by Rwandan refugees.

Insecurity increased in refugee camps, in the Goma region, particularly in Kibumba where two were killed last week following a fight (AFP photo)

Two British soldiers said to confess Cyprus killing

Cyprus police said on Wednesday that two of three arrested British soldiers had confessed to murdering a young Danish woman tourist guide in a crime that has shocked this island.

British base commanders put main tourist resorts out of bounds for their 4,000 troops while hundreds of police searched a 25-kilometre stretch of potato fields and sandy coast under a baking sun for the body of 23-year-old Louise Jensen of Hirtshals, Denmark.

She was abducted on Tuesday morning. By Wednesday afternoon police teams using sniffer dogs had found no trace of her.

Britain maintains two sovereign bases in Cyprus, a former British colony. They are manned by some 4,000 British troops.

Violent crime is rare in Cyprus where most crimes are crimes of passion within families.

However, this year two Cypriot gangsters were convicted of abducting, raping and murdering a Swedish housewife married to a Cypriot and a Ukrainian dancer. The women were abducted and killed last year in Ayia Napa.

In the latest incident police are holding Justin Fowler, 26, Alan Ford, 26 and Jeff Parnell, 23, all soldiers serving with the First Battalion Royal Green Jackets, at the Dekelia base near Larnaca.

"Two of them have confessed but Alan (Ford) has not," Chief Inspector Simos Andreou of the Famagusta-area police said, adding that no charges would be lodged until the body is found.

Mr. Andreou said there were no indications that the victim and the soldiers had known each other. He said the two soldiers who had confessed described their deeds as an "instant incident."

The three were arrested early on Tuesday after Jensen's 21-year-old Cypriot boyfriend, Mihailis Vassiliades, reported that three men in a car had overtaken the motorcycle on which she was riding pillion with him and knocked the bike over.

Both the car and the motorcycle had been stopped earlier at a petrol station and the incident occurred after both left.

According to Mr. Vassiliades, a waiter in the resort town of Ayia Napa, two of the men in the car got out and started hitting Ms. Jensen with a spade, then shoved her in the car, police said.

The men also came after Mr. Vassiliades but he ran for safety.

"It's one of the most shocking crimes, but we believe that it has nothing to do with Cyprus," Inspector Andreou said. "This was done by foreigners and it is the type of crime that is done all over the world."

The yellow car was stored at a police garage in Xylaphagou where a forensic expert went over its contents while a grim-looking Fowler watched and signed evidence chits.

Mr. Andreou said the car's interior was "covered with blood."

Israel prevented new massacre of Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Shin Beth intelligence agents prevented a new massacre of Palestinians near Hebron when they arrested armed Jewish settlers about to open fire, Israeli state media reported Wednesday.

Two brothers who ran an underground cell were caught carrying automatic weapons "just before" they started shooting, Voice of Israel Radio said.

Eytan and Yehudi Kahalani were caught by the General Security Service (Shin Beth) at a sparsely populated spot on the occupied West Bank, agents told the radio.

But they refused to say exactly where.

State television said late Tuesday eight militants in the cell were "preparing to launch a relentless, bloody attack using automatic weapons" on a Palestinian village close to Hebron.

No link has been mentioned between the extreme right-wing network, allegedly involved in murdering five Palestinians in the last year, and Baruch Goldstein, the settler who slaughtered more than 30 Muslims praying in a Hebron mosque on February 25.

Several Palestinian witnesses swore he had at least one accomplice, but Israel's official inquiry concluded he acted alone.

A military court on Wednesday issued the first formal charges against one of the suspected members of the Jewish terror cell, Israeli army radio reported.

Lieutenant Oren Edri was charged in Jaffa military court with illegally moving arms, violating standing orders, revealing classified information and conduct unbecoming a soldier, army radio said.

Ministers have said the alleged cell was planning murderous attacks on Palestinians in order to sabotage the peace process. Officials have said one attack was aimed at the Jerusalem headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Wednesday's charges in Jaffa military court — the first formal published allegations against any member of the group — shed some light on their alleged activities.

Edri allegedly received four blocks of explosives from another suspect, Lt. Kobi Pinto, and passed them on to other suspects. He taught one of the suspects, Eliahu Keller, how to set the explosives, army radio quoted the charge sheet as saying.

Edri, 23, faces up to 14 years in military prison if convicted of the charges, separate from any conviction he may face from a civilian court.

In a related development, the Haifa district court overturned a lower court's ruling that the Kahalani brothers be banned from meeting with their lawyers.

The Shin Beth had argued that the brothers could pass on classified information through their lawyers to other suspects. But Judge Michael Lindenstrauss overturned that decision, and said the two could meet with counsel prior to an appeal against their further detention, to be held on Friday.

The Kahalanis are reported to be central figures to the cell, as opposed to Lt. Edri, whose role is said to be marginal.

The eight, who have been arrested over the last 10 days, would be charged with harming "state security and terrorism," the television said, adding that they had been given the details by Police Minister Moshe Shahal.

"Smashing the ring allowed us to avoid a bloody circle of attacks and revenge attacks," he reportedly told the television.

However, Shin Beth members reportedly told a parliamentary sub-committee on Tuesday the gang had been preparing to attack a target in East Jerusalem, which they did not name.

All are among those arrested along with Rabbi Ido Elia, described as the group's "spiritual guide" and a welder, Michael Mor Yusef who filed down weapons to prevent identification.

Several hundred West Bank settlers demonstrated on Sunday outside the Shin Beth headquarters accusing it of torturing the eight.

The ministerial committee which oversees Israel's domestic security service met Wednesday and, after hearing the Shin Beth chief, rejected charges from settlers and a human rights group that the eight had been subjected to violence.

In the early 1980s, a secret Jewish network of extreme right-wing activists launched several blood anti-Palestinian attacks before being broken up in 1984.

Junblatt apologises for hosting Swedish spy

DAMOUR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Lebanese Druze leader Walid Junblatt apologised to the Swedish government on Wednesday for sheltering a convicted Swedish spy for four years at the request of the former Soviet Communist Party.

"In 1990, at the request of my former friends in the Soviet Communist Party, I sheltered a British agricultural expert," Mr. Junblatt told Reuters. "His name was Ronald Abi, but it turned out later that he was a Swedish spy. So what do we do?"

"I am sorry if I did any harm to the Swedes. But politics is politics," said Mr. Junblatt, who is now a government minister.

Mr. Junblatt's guest was Stig Bergling, a senior Swedish security police official convicted of spying for Moscow and jailed for life in 1979.

Mr. Bergling, who escaped from jail in 1987 with Soviet assistance, returned to Sweden in August, saying he was homesick. He has confessed to working as a spy in Beirut from 1988 onwards.

"I knew that he was a so-called British agricultural engineer," Mr. Junblatt said. "With time I knew that he bad, well, some other backgrounds. But my friendship with the Soviets was very strong and I still consider that their help was strategic to me."

Speaking at his ministry in the southern coastal town of Damour, Mr. Junblatt said the man first stayed at his mansion in Munkhara in the Druze-held Shouf mountains southeast of Beirut, but he later gave him a separate house.

He said the Swedish government sent a special envoy last Friday to ask him about Mr. Abi.

"Yes, Mr. Ronald Abi was in Munkhara. He has been hosted by me for four years because the Soviet Communist Party at that time asked me to host him and I did that and I fully acknowledge that," Mr. Junblatt said.

"I had excellent relations with the Soviets. They helped me a lot, the party, the Druze, the Arab cause," he added.

Mr. Junblatt's leftist mainly-Druze Progressive Socialist Party group a militia during Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war — had close links with the former Soviet Union where many of his followers received military training. The PSP is a member of Socialist International.

Carlos passport fake

Lebanon has notified the French government that Venezuelan-born Carlos the Jackal used a stolen Lebanese passport when he was snatched and handed to France in August, the general security department said Wednesday.

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George Burns undergoes surgery

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Comedian George Burns was hospitalised in intensive care after surgery to drain fluid from the surface of his brain, a hospital spokesman said.

The 98-year-old comic made it through the surgery well and was expected to remain in Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre for about a week, said spokesman Ron Wise.

Swede arrested for alleged false crime claim

BANGKOK (AFP) — Bangkok police said they had arrested a Swedish man Wednesday after he confessed to falsely reporting a crime in order to collect insurance money. Lars Gorm Rasmussen, 28, who described himself as a computer specialist from Malmö, told police he had been cheated by money-changers, who gave him \$4,000 in fake bills for his 30,000 Swedish kroner. But Rasmussen could not identify the shop where he said he had made the exchange nor produce a receipt, and eventually confessed he had made up the complaint to get police to back his insurance claim for reimbursement, it was alleged. He faces a maximum penalty of six months in jail if convicted.

Russian vodka drinkers, prepare for a toast

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's vodka industry, struggling with imports and high taxes, was given a much-needed tonic as the government prepared to reduce excise duties. A regular government commission meeting, chaired by First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets, debated ways of boosting output of domestic vodka and other alcoholic drinks by making them more competitive. A draft decision, a copy of which was distributed to reporters, called for excise duties to be cut to 80 from 85 per cent, which could mean a 30 per cent drop in the price of a bottle. The commission heard proposals for even steeper reductions to stem a flood of imports estimated at more than half a million bottles a year. The Rosalko Company wanted a 15 per cent cut. "We need to lower duties to a minimum of 75 per cent," said influential Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov.

"This has to be done urgently," he added. Soskovets concluded the meeting with a statement supporting some reduction in duties to reverse a fall in output.

Tycoon accused of using dead man to hide fraud

LONDON (R) — George Walker, a champion boxer who went on to become one of Britain's best known businessmen, used a dead man to cover up massive fraud at Britain's largest leisure empire, a court was told. The prosecution accused Mr. Walker of using the name of the former associate in a scheme to create fake profits at leisure and property giant Brent Walker Group Plc. "Could it be that all these documents (with the associate John Love's forged signature)... were created after his death as a massive cover-up," counsel for the prosecution Peter Rook said. The prosecution says the 65-year-old former head of Brent Walker used the fake profits and other fraud to build the group into Britain's largest leisure empire in the 1980s. One of Britain's most colourful businessmen during the 1980s, Walker left school at 14 in London's poor East End and worked as a carpenter's apprentice and fish porter before becoming a professional prize fighter. He became a businessman and created the Brent Walker empire before in 1991 being forced off the board by banks which had agreed to restructure the company as it was sagging under the weight of heavy debt and the property crash. The charges against him include four counts of theft covering £19.3 million (\$29 million) as well as false accounting. Mr. Walker, 65, former finance director at Brent Walker, Wilfred Aquilino, both on trial since June, have pleaded not guilty.

RJ privatisation is too far — Kavar

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The privatisation of Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national carrier, is still under serious consideration but it is unlikely to be accomplished before the end of the year, Minister of Transport Samir Kavar said Wednesday.

Numerous studies are being conducted and reports being drawn up to assess the feasibility of privatising the airline, but no definite decision has been made over the airline's future, Mr. Kavar said.

A British consultancy firm, KPMG Peat, presented preliminary findings after a six-month study of the airline's financial status at a workshop on RJ headed by Mr. Kavar earlier this week.

The outcome of technical, financial and economic discussions at the workshop will be incorporated into the final report of the KPMG consultants, Mr. Kavar told the Jordan Times.

The workshop elicited "many fruitful points, but further studies are to follow," he added.

The studies included examinations of failed and successful privatisation programmes of other international airlines, and no decision will be taken to privatise Royal Jordanian until the government-appointed privatisation committee is certain of its success, said Mr. Kavar, who heads the committee.

Mr. Kavar was unable to speculate when the verdict would be passed. "No decision will be made until all the studies have been completed," and all proposals are submitted and "this will take time," he said. If the privatisation committee accepts the proposals, official procedures necessitate further delays, he said.

Mr. Kavar said it was too early to discuss issues such as share sales or who the main shareholders are likely to be. The extent of the studies and reports means that a step-by-step approach will be adopted. It is possible that Royal Jordanian will be "commercialised before it is privatised"; the aims of either project are to "enhance the performance and the profitability" of the airline, he stated.

Mr. Kavar declined to say whether privatisation would expand the scope of RJ operations or affect ticket costs. These matters would depend upon the results of the studies, he said.

In the meantime, Al Aswaj newspaper reported Wednesday that a committee entrusted with a feasibility study for the privatisation of Royal Jordanian Gateway Hotel and the duty-free shop located at the airport had presented its findings to the Cabinet. The Cabinet is expected to reach a decision within the next two weeks and the main two bidders are believed to be the Jordan Investment Bureau and the Social Security Corporation; both are government-guided agencies.

IAEA still wants to find N. Korea plutonium

VIENNA (R) — North Korea appears to have halted reprocessing nuclear fuel by 1992 but the U.N. atomic safeguards agency suspects plutonium is still being hidden from inspectors, agency officials said on Wednesday.

The United States and North Korea have reportedly made progress in talks in Berlin and Pyongyang on the communist state's nuclear programme but tough questions on its nuclear past may have been put on the back burner.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is for now reluctant to do or say anything that might disturb the delicate negotiations but officials said the plutonium issue will have to be broached at some stage in the future.

"What did they do before inspections began? How much plutonium had they squirreled away? How much raw material for making plutonium did they still have on hand when our inspections began?" an IAEA official told Reuters.

"We don't have answers to these questions and we will unfortunately have to raise them at some point," he said.

The IAEA maintains it cannot confirm or deny that North Korea has used secretly reprocessed plutonium to make a nuclear bomb until it completes all the inspections it deems necessary.

"We are perfectly convinced they have got more (plutonium) but we can't prove it," he said.

Among other issues, North Korea's talks with the Americans have focused on replacing the communist state's graphite-moderated reactors with a light-water system in the future. Questions of the past may be left to the IAEA.

"Our remit obliges us at some point to make a judgement, or to say we cannot make a judgement, on the completeness and correctness of (North Korea's) inventory given to us in 1992," the IAEA official said.

"We are holding that in abeyance because everyone would like to see the bilateral diplomacy being played out at the moment make progress," he added.

The IAEA first began inspections at North Korea's Yongbyon atomic complex in May 1992.

A preliminary IAEA report compiled after inspections at five of North Korea's seven declared nuclear sites this year suggested that Pyongyang had not extracted any plutonium between February 1993 and March 1994.

In a further encouraging sign, Pyongyang allowed two U.N. inspectors at Yongbyon into the two other declared sites last weekend and they reported no unusual activity.

Pakistan orders inquiry into heroin plot story

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Pakistani government said on Wednesday it would investigate a newspaper report that quoted former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif as saying the country's army and intelligence chiefs had proposed selling heroin to fund covert military operations in 1991.

The row over the Washington Post story is the latest twist in a bitter power struggle between Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Mr. Sharif, who on Tuesday ended a three-day rail tour of the country aimed at whipping up public hostility to her 10-month-old government.

"We take these charges seriously and we shall conduct a serious inquiry," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Mr. Sharif, now opposition leader, denied he had given the Washington Post any interview in the last two years and said he would take legal action against those behind the story.

He told a news conference he believed that "this malicious concoction" was a desperate attempt by Mr. Bhutto's government to divert attention from what he said were its own failures and to malign the armed forces.

The Post on Monday quoted Mr. Sharif as saying that three months after his election as prime minister in

November 1991, General Aslam Beg, then army chief of staff and General Assad Durrani, then head of the military's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), had told him the armed forces needed money for covert foreign operations and wanted to raise it through drug deals.

Mr. Sharif, according to the report, said he had been "totally flabbergasted" and ordered the generals to drop the plan.

The Washington Post quoted Mr. Beg, who retired in 1991, and Mr. Durrani, now ambassador to Germany, as denying any such scheme had existed.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said the army and the ISI had been leading the fight against narcotics. "We believe the charges are not only concocted but are maliciously designed to denigrate Pakistani institutions," he told a news briefing.

The Washington Post story said the interview with Mr. Sharif took place in his home town of Lahore in May.

One of its joint authors, Karachi-based reporter Kamran Khan, told Reuters by telephone on Wednesday he had interviewed Mr. Sharif for several hours in Lahore.

"I stand by my story," he said, but would not say if he had taped his conversation with the former prime minister.

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